

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4016  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2021**

**DEATHS DUE TO LIGHTNING STRIKES**

4016. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details of deaths caused due to lightning strikes in the last five years, especially in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the reasons for not notifying lightning strikes as a natural calamity despite the increase in deaths and damage caused by the same;
- (c) the details of the lightning arrestors/detectors installed in rural areas in the State of Tamil Nadu, at present;
- (d) the details of number of downloads of the Damini App and whether warnings are communicated in the regional language on the app;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any effective steps to ensure last mile dissemination of lightning related warnings and information to mitigate damage; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

- (a) The State-wise details of deaths due to lightning strikes in the last five years including the State of Tamil Nadu is given in Annexure-I.
- (b) As per the guidelines issued, based on recommendation of 14th Finance Commission for Constitution and Administration of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), lightning is not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under SDRF/NDRF. However, a State Government can use up to 10% of the annual funds allocation of the SDRF, subject to fulfilment of certain prescribed conditions and norms, for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within local context in the State and which are not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters. Items and norms of assistance from SDRF/NDRF is available on Ministry of Home Affairs' website [https://www.ndmindia.nic.in/images/SDRF2105to2020\\_310516.pdf](https://www.ndmindia.nic.in/images/SDRF2105to2020_310516.pdf).
- (c) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and autonomous research institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has installed five lightning detectors in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry.

1. Thiruvavarur 2. Vellore 3. Coimbatore 4. Madurai 5. Pondicherry

- (d) There are more than 5 lakhs downloads of Damini app over India. Warning is given in English and Hindi. Communicating warning in local languages is under process.
- (e)-(f) National Disaster Management authority (NDMA) has taken effective steps for mitigation action in the concerned issues. NDMA has issued Guidelines for Action Plan on Thunderstorm & Lightning/ Squall and Strong wind in 2018-2019 and sent to all State Governments/ UTs and uploaded on the website of NDMA.

Further NDMA has taken initiatives as following:

- NDMA issued specific advisories Do's and Don'ts on Thunderstorm and Lightning to State Governments/ UTs for taking necessary action.
- NDMA Reviewed the preparedness & mitigation measures on Thunderstorm and Lightning through Video Conferencing (VC) with most affected States.
- Develop a protocol for early warning dissemination on Thunderstorm and Lightning,
- NDMA produced IEC materials like TVCs, Pocket Books containing do's and don'ts, audio-visuals on thunderstorm and lightning.
- Special panel discussion (TV Debate) on 'AapdakaSaamna' show on Doordarshan.
- Doordarshan and All India Radio - NDMA has run campaign through TV (Doordarshan) and Radio (All India Radio) for awareness generation among masses on 'Thunderstorm & Lightning' during **April 2021** in the States prone to the disaster including North Eastern States and West Bengal.
- Social Media campaign on thunderstorm and lightning begin from **February onwards**. Do's and don'ts are being shared on NDMA's social media platforms and videos are being continuously posted on twitter and facebook.

## Annexure-I

<b>State/UT wise number of accidental deaths due to Lightning during 2016-2020</b>						
<b>SN</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	53	77	74	109	93
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	92	30	36	28	14
4	Bihar	282	263	177	400	436
5	Chhattisgarh	211	270	213	212	246
6	Goa	0	0	0	2	0
7	Gujarat	29	54	13	64	78
8	Haryana	12	3	6	11	3
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	3	8	1	5
10	Jharkhand	542	150	235	334	336
11	Karnataka	77	121	126	99	75
12	Kerala	17	19	25	15	8
13	Madhya Pradesh	639	452	381	400	429
14	Maharashtra	230	284	149	189	182
15	Manipur	0	0	1	0	0
16	Meghalaya	12	15	5	7	8
17	Mizoram	1	1	1	1	0
18	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1
19	Odisha	376	446	299	271	275
20	Punjab	8	1	4	7	8
21	Rajasthan	108	121	43	88	48
22	Sikkim	1	1	0	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	38	74	82	57	64
24	Telangana	74	79	68	96	64
25	Tripura	12	17	10	10	5
26	Uttar Pradesh	384	217	220	321	304
27	Uttarakhand	1	7	2	2	10
28	West Bengal	110	176	179	147	170
	<b>TOTAL STATE(S)</b>	<b>3311</b>	<b>2881</b>	<b>2357</b>	<b>2871</b>	<b>2862</b>
29	A & N Islands	0	1	0	1	0
30	Chandigarh	0	0	0	2	0
31	D&N Haveli and Daman&Diu @ +	0	2	0	1	0

32	Delhi UT	2	0	0	0	0
33	Jammu & Kashmir @ *	2	1	0	1	0
34	Ladakh @					0
35	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>TOTAL UT(S)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>TOTAL (ALL INDIA)</b>	<b>3315</b>	<b>2885</b>	<b>2357</b>	<b>2876</b>	<b>2862</b>
	As per data provided by states/UTs					
	'+' Combined data of erstwhile D & N HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU UT during 2016-2019					
	**' Data of erstwhile JAMMU & KASHMIR State Including LADAKH during 2016-2019					
	'@' Data of newly created Union territory					

The above data was provided by National Crimes Record Bureau (NCRB)

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