

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1913
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM

1913. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Tsunami Warning System has been set up in the Indian Ocean and whether it is fully functional;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which data would be obtained through this system; and
- (c) the response time likely to be taken in alerting the people of the country about any possible threat of tsunami or earthquake?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) was established and made fully functional since 2007 and is now rendering operational services as a Regional Tsunami Watch Provider (RTWP) for whole of the Indian Ocean Region by the Earth System Science Organization - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Sciences (ESSO-INCOIS) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences located in Hyderabad. ITEWC comprises real-time seismic monitoring network of 17 broadband seismic stations apart from other national and international seismic stations to detect under-sea tsunamigenic earthquakes from the two known subduction zones of Andaman-Sumatra and Makran in Indian Ocean which can potentially affect entire Indian coastal states and Island regions, a network of 6 real-time sea-level sensors with Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPR) in the open ocean, HF Radars for coastal currents and 25 coastal tide gauge stations to capture tsunami wave speed and amplitude on 24 X 7 basis. All types of data collected from the ITEWC are fully archived and is fully accessible to the Decision Support System (DSS). A host of communication systems are being employed for timely dissemination of advisories.
- (c) The centre is capable of detecting tsunamigenic earthquakes occurring in the Indian Ocean region as well as in the Global Oceans within 10 minutes of their occurrence and disseminates the advisories to the concerned authorities within 20 minutes through various modes of communication like email, fax, SMS, GTS and website.
