

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 607
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2023

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS

607. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the details of the current level of tsunami preparedness of India along the East Coast of India;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to make the eastern coast Tsunami proof and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any systems or software are being developed for the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJU)

- (a) The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) was established in 2007 at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The centre is operational round the clock on all days and can provide warnings to all the coastal regions of India, including the east coast of India. Apart from early warning services, the warning centre at INCOIS is building the capacities and preparedness of stakeholders through regular workshops, training, seminars and tsunami mock drills (to ensure the robustness of the early warning system) for coastal states/UTs of India. INCOIS also offers awareness material such as leaflets, short films (in vernacular languages), etc. Stakeholders of the East Coast of India are participating in all regular workshops, trainings and tsunami mock drills conducted by INCOIS for tsunami preparedness.
- (b) Tsunamis cannot be prevented, but their impact can be mitigated through timely warnings, community awareness & preparedness, effective response. INCOIS has conducted about 15 workshops/trainings on tsunami awareness and preparedness to East Coast of India. In coordination with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), INCOIS has conducted 12 Tsunami Exercises (mock drills) for the East Coast of India. The recent tsunami mock exercise IOWave23 conducted in October 2023 was a great example of tsunami preparedness where more than 40,000 people participated and evacuated to higher grounds from East Coast of India. To enhance community preparedness, INCOIS is also coordinating the implementation of the UNESCO-IOC "Tsunami Ready" initiative. This voluntary community-based programme facilitates tsunami preparedness by actively collaborating with the public, community leaders, and local and national emergency management agencies. INCOIS assisted the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) in successfully recognizing Venkatraipur and Noliyasahi villages as Tsunami ready communities by the UNESCO-IOC. India is the first country in the Indian Ocean region to achieve this distinction.

(c)& (d) Yes Sir. The required software for monitoring earthquakes and multimode dissemination of early warning of tsunamis is already in place at INCOIS, Hyderabad. INCOIS has also developed Decision Support System software for automatically generating and disseminating warnings for effective dissemination of tsunami early warning information, INCOIS has developed interfaces to the NDMA Common Alert Protocol (CAP) system, and also to the INCOIS mobile application known as “SAMUDRA – Smart Access to Marine Users for ocean Data Resources and Advisories”.
