

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3235
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 2023**

DEATHS DUE TO LIGHTNING STRIKES

3235. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:
SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:
SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to declare lightning as a natural calamity in view of the rising deaths caused by lightning strikes in some States and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of people who died due to lightning strikes in various States of the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether in the year 2021 alone, 2,880 people died in lightning strikes according to National Crime Records Bureau and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that 96 per cent of the deaths due to lightning occur in rural areas and out of these 77 per cent are farmers;
- (e) whether financial assistance in the form of a certain amount is provided by the Government to the family of the deceased on compassionate grounds and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent deaths caused by lightning strikes?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

- (a) Presently the notified list of disasters eligible for National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)/State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) assistance, includes 12 disasters namely cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and frost & cold wave. The issue of inclusion of more calamities in the existing notified list of calamities, was considered by the 15th Finance Commission. The Commission in para 8.143 of its report had observed that the list of notified disasters eligible for funding from State Disaster Response Mitigation Fund (SDRMF) and National Disaster Response Mitigation Fund (NDRMF) covers the needs of the State to a large extent and thus did not find much merit in the request to expand its scope.
- (b) The State-wise details of the number of people died due to lightning strikes, as provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is given in Annexure-I.

- (c) Yes Sir. Details provided in Annexure- I.
- (d) Yes Sir.
- (e) Ministry of Earth Sciences, through India Meteorological Department (IMD), issues forecast and warnings for thunderstorms and associated weather phenomena five days in advance with regular updates. The assistance to the affected families is coming under the purview of the respective State Governments.
- (f) IMD provides forecasts for thunderstorms and associated phenomena such as lightning on all time scales. On five day to 3 hour time scales, quantitative alerts are issued by IMD which are colour coded based on expected impact of the weather occurrence.

The nowcast for thunderstorms and associated weather such as strong surface winds, hail, lightning and rainfall are issued to the public and disaster managers by IMD for one to three hours in advance. The information is specific up to the district/town of occurrence, and impact expected in cases of severe weather associated with thunderstorm occurrence. The information is transmitted through the IMD website, mobile app based alerts (*MEGHDOOT*, *MAUSAM*), SMS, email and whatsapp messages in local language. Currently on the IMD website, 3 hourly warnings are issued round the clock for 732 districts of India and 1089 important cities/towns all over the country. Closer to the actual event occurrence, the DAMINI mobile App (developed and maintained by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology) provides information on one's mobile about lightning occurrence in the vicinity of the user (40 km) during the last 15 minutes as well as its likely occurrence during the next half hour.

States/UTs	2019	2020	2021
Andhra Pradesh #	109	93	100
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
Assam	28	14	16
Bihar	400	436	286
Chhattisgarh	212	246	230
Goa	2	0	1
Gujarat	64	78	40
Haryana	11	3	11
Himachal Pradesh	1	5	4
Jharkhand	334	336	254
Karnataka	99	75	121
Kerala	15	8	15
Madhya Pradesh	400	429	496
Maharashtra	189	182	238
Manipur	0	0	0
Meghalaya	7	8	7
Mizoram	1	0	0
Nagaland	0	1	0
Odisha	271	275	287
Punjab	7	8	13
Rajasthan	88	48	132
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	57	64	109
Telangana #	96	64	66
Tripura	10	5	4
Uttar Pradesh	321	304	219
Uttarakhand	2	10	1
West Bengal	147	170	228
TOTAL STATE(S)	2871	2862	2878
A & N Islands	1	0	0
Chandigarh	2	0	0
D&N Haveli and Daman&Diu @ \$	1	0	0
Delhi UT	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir @ *	1	0	2
Ladakh @	-	0	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	0
TOTAL UT(S)	5	0	2
TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	2876	2862	2880
