GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 732
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, 23RD JULY, 2021

FORECAST OF EARTHQUAKES

732.   DR. HEENAGAVIT:
         DR. SHRlKANT EKNATHSHINDE:
         SHRI DHAIRYASHEELSAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
         DR. SUJAYRADHAKRISHNAVIKHE PATIL:
         SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEBPATIL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)   Whether the Government is formulating any special action plan for accurate forecast of earthquakes on the models being followed in countries like Japan and the USA.
(b)   if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the large-scale devastation and loss of life would be curbed as a result thereof;
(c)   the details of the location of the existing research centres for getting accurate forecast of earthquakes in the country; and
(d)   the steps being taken by the Government to upgrade the said centres to state-of-the-art level?

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

(a)   As on today, there is no proven scientific technique available, anywhere in the world, to predict/forecast in advance the occurrence of earthquakes with the reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude. No country has the capability of predicting the occurrence of earthquakes in advance.

However, research efforts are made in India and elsewhere for developing an Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) System, to alert people once an Earthquake occurs based on the arrival time of P-wave of the Earthquake. The warning time however is much shorter and of the order of a few seconds. The fidelity, robustness and success rate of such warning system are to be assessed thoroughly before the system can be considered for real time operations.

National Centre of Seismology (NCS) however uses a large network of seismological stations (115 stations) to monitor the occurrence of earthquakes and report the time, magnitude and depth within about 5 minutes of the occurrence of an earthquake.

(b)   Does not arise

(c)   Does not arise.

(d)   **Does not arise.**