

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2428  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015**

**UNESCO ASSISTANCE IN REDUCING DISASTER RISKS**

**2428. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has signed a letter of intent with UNESCO for mutual co-operation in the field of reducing Disaster Risks and Capacity Building;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the likely benefits that might accrue on account of the above co-operation?**

**ANSWER  
MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes Madam.**
- (b-c) A letter of intent was signed with UNESCO for reducing disaster risks and capacity building in earth sciences on 24th November 2014 by the Earth System Science Organization - Ministry of Earth Sciences (ESSO-MoES). The areas of cooperation inter alia likely benefits include:**
  - I. effective exchange of products and information on natural hazards;**
  - II. generate scientific methods for capacity development programmes in GIS and remote sensing applications covering coastal and oceanic regions for scientists from related institutions;**
  - III. Build training courses for developing early warning systems for disaster risk reduction;**
  - IV. initiate training courses in Extended Continental Shelf issues, in order to assist African countries in making a submission to United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;**
  - V. participate effectively in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition**
  - VI. provide the enabling factors for INCOIS to be developed into a UNESCO Category 2 Centre; and**
  - VII. collaborate in the areas of common interest on mutual consent.**

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