

PARLIAMENT QUESTION: Study on Frequent Earthquakes

Posted On: 27 NOV 2024 6:05PM by PIB Delhi

The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences monitors and reports seismic activity nationwide through the National Seismic Network of 166 stations. Details of earthquakes are available on the website of NCS (seismo.gov.in). Several studies have been conducted to understand the science of frequent earthquakes affecting the country, which include detailed Seismic Microzonation studies conducted in selected urban areas to understand local site effects, trend analysis of earthquake occurrences, etc. So far, such microzonation has been completed for Delhi, Kolkata, Gangtok, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Coimbatore and Mangalore.

Besides, continuous data collection and analysis of historical earthquakes is done by NCS-MoES for better understanding of seismic patterns and source processes. Additionally, based on historical seismicity, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has developed a seismic zoning map of India, which classifies regions based on their earthquake risk, a vital aspect for urban planning and construction practices.

Several measures are taken to mitigate the risks associated with earthquakes which include expansion of Seismic Monitoring Networks to ensure timely detection on earthquakes and dissemination of alerts, assigning the building codes by BIS for earthquake-resistant design and construction, particularly in high-risk zones, conducting awareness and Training Programs to educate the public about earthquake preparedness, including drills and awareness campaigns by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) under Ministry of Home Affairs, and developing emergency response and disasters management plans at state and district-level.

This information was given by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Science, Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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(Release ID: 2078029)