

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1993
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, August 04, 2016**

Prediction of massive earthquake by Earth Observatory, Singapore

1993. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that "Earth Observatory, Singapore" has expressed apprehensions of a massive earthquake in North India, including the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand;**
- (b) if so, whether Government would take cognizance of the apprehension expressed by "Earth Observatory, Singapore"; and**
- (c) if so, the proposed facilities to be extended by Central Government to State Governments for dealing with such a disaster and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Yes Sir. For the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand, there are several research papers, including the papers from Earth Observatory Singapore, which have suggested that this region lies in the central seismic gap and no great earthquake has occurred in this region in past 500 years or so. Hence there is a possibility that this region may experience a great earthquake. However, no time frame of occurrence of such an earthquake has been specified in these studies.**

- (b)-(c) Yes Sir. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun has established an earthquake monitoring network and a Multi-parametric Geophysical Observatory in the region.**

A pilot project on Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) system is on implementation for northern India (Uttarakhand) by Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) Roorkee. The system is under testing by IIT Roorkee. Such type of system gives some lead time for issue of warning on occurrence of an earthquake, so that some remedial actions regarding vacating building, shutting down critical operations etc may be taken up.

A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is also functional under the general superintendence, direction and control of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has funded several research programs to the academic and research institutes which are either located or working in the Uttarakhand region. It has also supported outreach and earthquake education programs in the region.
