

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-191**  
**ANSWERED ON- 15/09/2020**

**PREDICTION SYSTEM FOR EARTHQUAKES**

191. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several earthquakes of medium intensity have been reported in the country during the last few months, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the National Centre for Seismology or other concerned agencies have not yet been able to create any prediction system for earthquakes, if so, the reasons thereof?

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

- (a) Yes Sir, National Centre for Seismology (NCS) maintains a National Seismological Network (NSN) to detect and locate earthquakes in and around the country. A total of 413 earthquakes have been recorded by NSN during 01<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 to 08<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. The magnitude-wise distribution of earthquakes along with the possible effects is provided in the table.

Magnitude level	No. of Earthquakes reported by NCS	Category	Effects
<3.0	135	Recorded by seismograph	Usually not felt
3.0-3.9	153	Minor	Felt by many people; no damage
4.0-4.9	114	Light	Felt in large area; minor breakage of objects
5.0-5.7	11	Moderate	Some damage to weak structures

- (b) At present, there is no proven scientific technique available, anywhere in the world, to predict the occurrence of the earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy with respect to location, time of occurrence and magnitude. The current scientific knowledge about earthquake processes, which is a very complex phenomena, is not matured to the level of prediction.

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