

**RAJYA SABHA**

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**\*SUPPLEMENT**

**TO**

**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Tuesday, March 25, 2025/ Chaitra 4, 1947 (Saka)**

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**GOVERNMENT BILL**

**The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 - as passed by Lok Sabha - Contd.**

**SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM:** I wish to start with the painful memory of Wayanad. The rehabilitation activities at the landslide affected areas of Wayanad are moving at a snail's pace, leaving the people in distress. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government is expediting or making moves for the rehabilitation activities in Wayanad. The Central Government, instead of declaring a rehabilitation package, sanctioned a loan for the affected areas, with two stringent conditions. When the demand by Kerala was for a special package, the Central Government has a constitutional liability to sanction it and which it has done on multiple times for other States. The State Government till today, after eight months have passed, has not even started the housing activities. Under the 'Health' front, both the Central Government and the State Government have miserably failed and only an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs is allotted for disaster victims. I will talk about students' future. Around 200 students are studying outside and inside the country. They don't have their parents. The Centre and the State Governments are doing nothing for the children. I want to move on to the livelihood factor. Nothing is done for that and also no compensation is paid. Regarding loans, not thinking about the people who are affected by a disaster of such magnitude, the nationalized banks are still keeping quiet. They have to give loan-waiver which they are not doing. Clause 6 speaks about the National Crisis Management Committee. There is no mention whether its members would be ecologists, climate scientists, environmentalists or experts from this field. This Bill is silent on 'livelihood.' It says about reconstruction, recovery, rehabilitation, resilience but it doesn't say about 'livelihood.' New loans can also be given at concessional rates. It is only because you do not want to give that privilege to the poor people of Wayanad. Clause 23 talks about an Urban Disaster Management Authority for State Capitals and all cities having municipal corporations. The Authority shall consist of the Municipal Commissioner as the ex-officio Chairperson and District Collector of the district concerned. The District Collector has many municipalities and corporations under him. This arrangement would not work. It is all right to bring in reforms, but reforms should be for the good of the people, in the interest of the people. But this reform is not in the interest of the people.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** The tsunami hit Tamil Nadu in 2004. The State Government, at that time, made significant efforts to save the people, especially the poor and

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\*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

fishermen. Tamil Nadu faced many floods and managed them effectively, helping the poor. Despite requesting the Central Government for funds, the support received was insufficient. It is the duty of the Government to protect the people. We cannot simply blame the Central Government. We must work together to find solutions.

**SHRI CHUNNILAL GARASIYA:** This vision of the Prime Minister is not limited to economic development but is also focused towards building a safe, strong and disaster resilient India. The launch of the National Disaster Management Plan, programmes like the Aapda Mitra Yojana and the National Earthquake Early Warning System have taken India to new heights in the field of disaster management. This amendment bill empowers the National and State Disaster Management Authorities to independently prepare disaster plans. This bill is an important step towards reducing the impact of disasters and ensuring the safety of people. The formation of Urban Disaster Management Authorities in state capitals and big cities is a historic step. This Government gives priority not only to advancement in technology but also to the safety of citizens. This Bill clarifies the roles of disaster management authorities, enhances coordination, and grants the National Disaster Management Authority the authority to assess climate-related disasters. Under cooperative federalism, it encourages collaboration between the center and states. By granting statutory recognition to the National Crisis Management Committee, disaster management is made more organized and accountable. Penal provisions have been introduced for obstructing disaster management personnel. In line with the 15th Finance Commission's recommendations, disaster management has been integrated with development planning. A disaster database has been established at both national and state levels to ensure better preparedness and response. The formation of urban disaster management authorities and statutory recognition of the Crisis Management Committee further strengthen this framework. This Bill is a significant step toward realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "disaster-resilient and secure India," contributing to a safer and stronger nation. I fully support this Bill and urge its passage.

**DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal is "zero casualties in disasters," and to achieve this, Home Minister Amit Shah has introduced the Disaster Management Amendment Bill. The objective of this bill is to enhance disaster management efficiency, empower NDMA and SDMA, and establish a disaster database. By amending the 2005 Act, disaster management has been decentralized, giving more authority to local administrations. The Government has significantly increased the budget for NDMA, SDMA, and the Disaster Relief Fund. A total of 1 lakh "Disaster Mitras" and 2.37 lakh young volunteers have been trained across 321 universities, NGOs, and 350 districts. To ensure women's participation, the "Aapda Sakhi" scheme has been launched, training 20,000 women. Additionally, 50% of positions in Cyclone Shelter Management are reserved for women. To make disaster management more proactive, an emergency helpline number, 112, has been introduced, which provides assistance in 10 types of disasters. The Government is now focusing on prevention, preparedness, and rehabilitation rather than just relief efforts. Several disaster management apps like NDMA, Sachet, *Bhookamp*, Damini, Krishi DPM, and CWC Flood have been developed. Among these, the Damini app provides early warnings about lightning strikes. India has demonstrated its disaster management capabilities in the Uttarkashi tunnel rescue operation and the Turkey earthquake relief efforts. This Bill will further strengthen disaster management, and I extend my full support to it.

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH), replying to the debate, said:** The subject of disaster management is in the third part of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. It is

included in Entry No. 23 of the Concurrent List. In a way, disaster management is the subject of both the Central Government and the State Government. Therefore, many members expressed concern that there is centralization of power in it, the federal structure will be harmed. This is such a fight, in which we intend to involve not only the Central Government, State Government but also the Panchayat and every citizen. There is no question of centralization of power in this. The Prime Minister of the country has put forward a 10-point agenda for disaster risk reduction in front of the world and more than 40 countries have accepted it. In this, we have expected the participation of not only the State Government and local bodies, but also the participation of the society. In this, there is scope for planning at the national level as well as the local level and both the powers and duties of the institutions have been clarified. The battle to face any disaster cannot be fought unless the institutions are empowered and made responsible. We have empowered and made the institutions responsible in this Bill. Disaster is directly related to climate change. The best way is that we worry about climate change and global warming. India has been moving forward for thousands of years. Whether it is about keeping nature intact through yagna or the Shanti Paath mentioned in the Yajurveda, the peace that is wished for is not limited to humans only, but we pray for peace for the earth, water, herbs, vegetation, trees, plants, animals and even space, so that the climate remains safe. From the time of Yajurveda, from the Vedic period itself, we have accepted the mutual relationship between man and nature and our Government is working to take this tradition forward. Whether it is the Harappan civilization or the Indus civilization, when we look at the structures of old cities in all those places, we see very specific efforts for disaster management in them. The Maurya Empire is also known as the first aquatic civilization, which is now accepted by all. Along with traditional measures and care of the environment, we should also keep an open mind to adopt modern measures, science and good practices from around the world. The Disaster Management Act came for the first time in 2005. Under this, NDMA, SDMA and DDMA were formed. Now concerns are being raised that power will be centralized. The biggest responsibility of implementation lies with the District Disaster Management Authority, which is under the State Government, so there is no possibility of damage to the federal structure anywhere. The Finance Commission has made scientific arrangements for disaster assistance.

Some Members have raised the question that what is the need for amendment. Now if the size and scale of disasters has changed, then we will have to change the ways of dealing with it. We have taken suggestions from all the Ministries of the Central Government, State Governments and international organizations. We have prepared this Bill holistically by accepting 89 percent of the suggestions received. Here it is not a bad thing to represent the State Government, one's own party, but at least while opposing it, you should have seen whether this is the suggestion of my State Government or not. Before going into the subject of amendment, I want to go to the root causes of the amendments. Through this Bill, we want to move from reactive action to proactive risk reduction. From proactive risk reduction, we want to move towards real-time monitoring based on artificial intelligence. We want to move from radio warnings to social media apps and mobile warnings. This Bill has been prepared to incorporate capacity, intensity, efficiency and accuracy in disaster response. We all have to accept that the changes that have taken place in the field of disaster management in the last 10 years have made us a national as well as regional and global power. The whole world is accepting this. This Bill will make both NDMA and SDMA effective. Disaster data base will be created at both national and state level. It has envisaged creation of Urban Disaster Management Authority, which will be completely under the State Governments. All three elements of trust, reliability and accountability have been included in it. We have also fixed responsibility for the best use of resources. Transparency has been

ensured by defining new words like disaster management, local authority, rehabilitation and urban authority. Some Members had raised the issue as to why section 13 was removed, but after the things that have been added in section 2, section 13 has no justification. We have fixed the responsibility of both NDMA and NEC. Section 56 gives power to take disciplinary action for negligence and disobedience. Through section 60A, an attempt has been made to fix responsibility by providing punishment for disobeying instructions during disaster and not taking cognizance of instructions. I have called efficiency the third pillar. In section 5, the recruitment process has been ensured. Section 11 entrusts the responsibility of preparation, review and amendment of NDMP to NDMA. Section 23 defines the responsibility of SDMA. Section 44A mentions the formation of Disaster Response Force and enabling provisions. Section 25 constitutes District Disaster Authority. We have given space to civil society organisations in the Bill. I have come up with a new idea of formation of Urban Disaster Management Authority through the Bill. Not a single reform has been done for centralisation of any kind of power. The Prime Minister has also taken the protection of environment and disaster management a long way. A Task Force was also formed to work on disaster risk by hosting 20 conferences. Today, I want to present Gujarat's contribution to disaster management before this House. The devastating earthquake in Bhuj in 2001 shook not only Gujarat, but the entire country and the world. Then, for the first time in India, the Department of Climate Change was established by Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi. A Climate Change Fund was created in Gujarat and the State Disaster Management Act was also brought in 2003. When Modi ji became the Prime Minister, a proactive approach was adopted instead of a reactive one and disaster management was undertaken by keeping the target of zero casualty instead of minimum casualty in the past. Today, Governments not only take care of relief and rescue work after the disaster, but also do many other pre-disaster preparations.

There has been a 98 percent reduction in loss of life and property due to cyclones and more than 70 percent reduction in heat wave related mortality. The budget of SDRF has been increased three times. The budget of NDRF has been increased more than three times. National Disaster Response Reserve was created with an amount of 250 crores. The first National Disaster Management Plan was released in 2016 which is fully in line with the SENDAI framework. Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award was established. The first phase of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation was done in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in 2018. The Home Ministry decided that an inter-ministerial consultation team would be sent immediately to assess the damage caused by natural disasters. At present, 16 battalions of NDRF are operational. A program has been made for landslide risk management. A program has also been developed to deal with floods caused by glacial lake burst. A program for civil defence and training capacity building has also been initiated. NDRF has also conducted several international operations. The NDRF has conducted operations in many countries keeping in mind the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. In all these places, not only the governments but also the people of these countries have praised NDRF and Modi ji. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the NDRF personnel through this House. The Government has signed MoUs with many countries to strengthen the work of disaster management and disaster risk reduction. There is some disaster in the geographical conditions of these countries which is also possible in India. Therefore, the Government has made many efforts to bring the arrangements that are in place in those countries to our country to deal with that disaster. International seminars have also been organized. Many disaster management experts of national and international level attended all these seminars, who have enriched the experiences and knowledge of groups of all countries in the field of disaster management. CDRI is an example of India's global leadership in the field of disaster management. So far, 42 countries and 7 international

organizations have become its members. CDRI has worked to establish India's leadership at the global level. Through the 'Aapada Mitra Yojana', a force of community volunteers has been created in 350 disaster prone districts and these people have been registered on the India Disaster Resource Network portal. Whenever a disaster strikes, these trained volunteers reach there on their own and the District Collector also keeps a complete account of them. There are one lakh Aapada Mitra volunteers, out of which 20 percent are women.

In this budget, with a provision of Rs 470 crore, we are expanding it to a new target group. To connect the youth with it, more than 1,300 trained *aapada mitra* have been given the job as master trainers, who will train 2 lakh, 37 thousand new *aapada mitra* of NCC, NSS, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Bharat Scouts and Guides, which will take the total number of community volunteers to 3 lakh, 37 thousand. We have created many apps, through which whether it is a farmer, a fisherman, a brother living on the sea shore, areas prone to landslides, all of them get timely information. Farmers working in the fields are also informed about the possibility of lightning strike, so that they can save their lives.

Whole world has accepted one thing without any doubt that Narendra Modi is leading the world in protection of environment, that is why the United Nations has honoured him with the title of 'Champions of Earth'. Modi ji has almost completed the task of making India free from single-use plastic. International Solar Alliance has been formed due to his initiative and many countries have joined it. He has popularised the One Sun, One World, One Grid project across the world. As far as energy is concerned, India has set a target of net zero carbon emissions by 2070. We have achieved our target of 20 percent blending by 2025. Today, 20 percent eco-friendly fuel is used in all our vehicles. We have stopped the smoke generated from cow dung cakes and coal by giving 10 crore 'Ujjwala Gas Connection'. We have increased sanitation coverage from 39 to 100 percent in the Swachhata Abhiyan. 400 projects have been started under 'Namami Gange'. For the revival of Mother Earth and to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, we have come up with a major scheme 'PM PRANAM'. In the 'Gobardhan Scheme', instead of converting cow dung into cow dung cakes, we are making gas and making natural fertilizer from it, by doing this we are reducing smoke and working to protect our motherland also.

In 2019, the best COVID management happened in our country India and every Indian is proud of it. As soon as COVID outbreak occurred, we started making vaccines and in just one or two years we made vaccines and administered them to 130 crore people and administered 2 jabs. From the smallest village to the state civil hospitals and from the state civil hospitals to AIIMS, through video conferencing, through tele-medicine, doctors for even the smallest ailments guided and this saved the lives of lakhs of people. The Prime Minister of this country interacted with the Chief Ministers of the state 40 times. No one can say that the vaccine was not available in their state. We used to give vaccines to everyone, but there was politics in administering them. The reason we fought the best battle in the whole world is leadership. Because governments all over the world were fighting against COVID-19, but here, the Central Government, State Governments and 130 crore people - everyone was fighting. This is called leadership.

I feel the power of this leadership, which inspired the entire country to follow restrictions like Janata Curfew and transport shutdown without any Government order i.e. only on my appeal. This was more than any administrative success for me, it was a symbol of the unwavering faith of the people. Ultimately, when the people gave mandate again in our favour, it was a confirmation of their faith in my decisions and policies. Questions were raised on me and my government regarding the PM CARES Fund, but I want to make it

clear that this fund operates in a completely transparent and apolitical manner. In contrast, the erstwhile Prime Minister's Relief Fund was under the control of the Congress, and it was used to benefit private organisations, even it gave financial assistance to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation also. This Government used this fund during the COVID-19 pandemic to set up oxygen plants, supply ventilators, help the poor and speed up the vaccination drive. An independent committee of bureaucrats looks after its management, which ensures its transparency. Then they further said that there was no specific disaster listed in the Disaster Management Act. I would like to tell you that the right to list disasters lies with the states. They can list them according to the type of disaster in their respective states. They said that violence and riots were excluded from this. Sir, disaster management and riot violence have nothing to do with this. On the issue of corruption, I have to remind you of the scams that happened during the tenure of the Congress government- Bofors scam, 2G scam and many other scams. Those who are demanding transparency from me today, have themselves been involved in these scams in the past. In such a situation, they have no moral right to speak on this subject. I was also accused of giving financial assistance to the states, but the truth is that the central Government provides relief funds to a state under a systematic process, wherein established procedures are followed. The opposition is raising questions on this process only to do politics, while the reality is that we have provided assistance to every state as per its requirement. I want to put the transparency and accountability of my work before the public. No matter how many false allegations the opposition makes, the truth is that my policies and decisions have been taken keeping national interest paramount. Now it is up to the public to decide under whose rule there is true transparency and honesty.

A lot was said about the assistance given to Tamil Nadu. We have given a total of Rs 2028 crore between 2019 and 2024 and have provided a lot of help. Many members also spoke about the landslide in Wayanad. We declared the disaster as a severe natural disaster. We immediately sent Rs 215 crore from NDRF. We sent Rs 236 crore for debris removal, which has not been spent yet. For the central government, the citizens of Kerala are ours, the citizens of Leh and Ladakh are ours and the citizens of Gujarat and UP are also ours. We do not discriminate in disaster work and in the distribution of government resources. Work is done only through constitutional system. The bill that I have brought today has a provision to enhance technology, but we have kept human capacity in mind. Along with disaster-resistant construction, there is also concern for the conservation of nature. Therefore, I request all the party members that this is such a bill, which should be passed unanimously. Its message should be given in the country and the world.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, was adopted.  
Clauses etc., as amended, were adopted.  
The Bill, as amended, was passed.*

**P. C. MODY,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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