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'Ten cities fall under high seismic risk zone'

PTI

NEW DELHI: Ten cities, of the 38 falling in quake prone areas, come under the high-risk region and the Centre launched an Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project in the regions, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

"Of the 38 cities, eight are in zone IV (high risk) and two cities are in zone V (very high risk)," Minister of State for Home Affairs S Regupathy said in a written reply.

He said an accelerated project was taken up as a pilot project under the Government of India-UNDP disaster risk management programme, which covered the 38 cities in India.

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of communities, urban local bodies and the administration for undertaking earthquake mitigation, preparedness and response measures, Regupathy said.

The key components of the projects are awareness generation, formulation of preparedness and response plan at the city and community levels, establishment of a techno-legal regime to promote safe construction, training and capacity building of professionals and disaster management teams.

Emphasis is also laid on retrofitting of lifeline buildings, capacity building of engineers and architects in seismically resistant designs and constructions, he said.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) codes for earthquake resistant constructions are already in existence, he said.

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