PRESS NOTE

Indian Standards for Structural Safety of Buildings against Earthquake

India's high earthquake risk and vulnerability is evident from the fact that about 59 percent of India's land area could face moderate to severe earthquakes. The earthquake resistant design of structures taking into account seismic data from studies of Indian earthquakes has become essential, particularly in view of the intense construction activity all over the country. It is to serve this purpose that the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated earthquake engineering codes which are reviewed and updated from time to time. To ensure safety of buildings, it is imperative that these Indian Standards for design and construction are followed by structural engineers, builders and developers. The criteria for earthquake resistant design of buildings is given in the Indian Standard IS 1893 (Part 1):2002. This standard gives seismic zoning map of India which divides the country into four zones namely Zone II, Zone III, Zone IV and Zone V, the Zone II representing the least vulnerable and Zone V the most severely vulnerable. The standard provides the design provisions according to severity of the likely earthquake in the zone concerned where the building is to come up, apart from various provisions to be utilized by the structural engineer in design of buildings. Owners of buildings should enquire whether the buildings being purchased by them have been designed by competent structural engineers and are in accordance with the Indian Standards on earthquake engineering formulated by BIS.