

Letters To The Editor

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EARTHQUAKES FELT AT SRINAGAR DURING 1923-1952

Srinagar (Lat. 34°N , Long. 75°E), the capital of Kashmir, is situated at a height of about 5200 ft above mean sea level. Earthquake shock data collected from the office records and the reports sent from the observatory at Srinagar during 1923-1952 show that the shocks which Srinagar has experienced are usually of slight intensity. Earthquakes of moderate intensity have been felt on very few occasions whereas severe earthquakes do not appear to have been felt at all.

2. Table 1 (p. 198) shows that in all 176 shocks have been felt at Srinagar during the 30-year period, *i.e.*, on an average of 6 shocks per year. The maximum number of 16 shocks were felt during 1923 and no shock was felt in 1926. The next higher number of 15 shocks were felt in 1947, of which 10 shocks were felt in the month of July only. The years 1932 and 1933 have recorded only 1 shock each.

3. It is also seen that the least number of 7 shocks has been felt in the month of February and the highest number of 29 shocks in July. The next highest number of 19 shocks have been felt in November. The table will show that 10 July has been more favourable for the occurrence of earthquakes. On this day as many as 11 shocks were felt during the 30-year period, of which 7 shocks were felt on this day in 1947 alone. On the majority of days in each month no shock has been felt during the 30-year period.

4. During the 30-year period no shock of severe intensity has been felt which could have caused accountable damage. Only 41 out of the total of 176 shocks caused slight damages in the form of cracks in old kutch buildings and walls. The years 1924, 1925 and 1943 have each experienced 4 shocks which have caused damages to buildings etc. Records also show that the greatest number

of 6 such shocks have been felt in March. July has recorded 4 such shocks out of the highest total record of 29 shocks whereas February, having recorded only 7 shocks during the 30 years, has also recorded 4 shocks which caused damages.

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