

Summary of Audit Report - 2004

Measures for strengthening the earthquake resistance of government facilities that will function as disaster prevention bases in the event of an earthquake have not been carried out selectively or efficiently

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport are building and repairing government facilities to prevent disasters and increase the convenience to the general public and the efficiency of government affairs. As part of this, the Ministry is carrying out measures for strengthening the earthquake resistance of the existing government facilities. Because the government facilities will become disaster prevention bases when an earthquake occurs, it is necessary to greatly strengthen their earthquake resistance so that the facilities can maintain their functions when a major earthquake occurs. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport is carrying out these measures, taking into consideration the degree of importance and urgency. According to the results of our audit, the diagnosis of the earthquake resistance of structural parts has been almost completed, while the earthquake resistance of other building parts and equipment has still not been diagnosed in many facilities. In some of the areas where a major earthquake is anticipated, priority is given to the repair of less important facilities than the repair of the important facilities from which commands and communications will be sent when an earthquake occurs. In addition, about one-third of the repaired facilities have not attained the required level of earthquake resistance, and about a half of the important but not repaired facilities need urgent repair. As a result, facilities for which the earthquake resistance of all the structural parts, other parts, and building equipment has been secured account for 32% of all the government facilities that will function as disaster prevention bases. This means that when an earthquake occurs, the Government may be unable to carry out emergency measures, such as the provision of command and communication functions. Therefore, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport should establish concrete medium-term and long-term plans concerning the measures for improving the earthquake resistance of government facilities that will function as disaster prevention bases, and give priority to the important facilities that need urgent repair in areas where a major earthquake is anticipated. In addition, each of the government offices concerned should promote these measures for improving the earthquake resistance of government facilities that will function as disaster prevention bases, increasing awareness of the need for the measures.

(Background amount: 42.3 billion yen (expenses from FY1995 to FY2004 for improving the earthquake resistance of government facilities that will function as disaster prevention bases))