

REPORT NO.

188



सत्यमेव जयते

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOME AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHTH REPORT

**Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the 178th Report on
Disaster Management in the Country**

(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 2015)
(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 31st July, 2015)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
July, 2015/Ashadha, 1937 (Saka)

Hindi version of this publication is also available

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(re-constituted *w.e.f.* 1st September, 2014)

1. Shri P. Bhattacharya—*Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri K. Rahman Khan
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Dr. V. Maitreyan
- *5. Shri Neeraj Shekhar
- **6. Shri Vijay Goel
7. Shri Derek O'Brien
8. Shri Baishnab Parida
9. Shri D. Raja
10. Shri Sitaram Yechury

LOK SABHA

11. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
12. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
13. Shri Selvakumara Chinayan S.
14. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
15. Shri Ramen Deka
16. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
17. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
18. Shrimati Kirron Kher
19. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
20. Shri Kaushal Kishore
21. Shri Ashwini Kumar
22. Shri Harish Meena
23. Shri Nagarajan P.
24. Shri Baijayant "Jay" Panda
25. Shri Dilip Patel
26. Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel
27. Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai Patel
28. Shri Bheemrao B. Patil
29. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
30. Dr. Satya Pal Singh
31. Shri B. Sreeramulu

* Shri Neeraj Shekhar, MP, Rajya Sabha nominated *w.e.f.* 29th January, 2015 to fill the vacancy caused by shifting of Shri Satish Chandra Misra, MP, RS to Committee on Finance *w.e.f.* 9th January 2015.

**Shri Vijay Goel, MP, Rajya Sabha nominated *w.e.f.* 19th December, 2014 to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi as MOS *w.e.f.* 9th November 2014.

(ii)

SECRETARIAT

Shri P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, *Joint Secretary*

Shri Vimal Kumar, *Director*

Shri Bhupendra Bhaskar, *Assistant Director*

Shri Anurag Ranjan, *Assistant Director*

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this One Hundred Eighty Eighth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in its One Hundred Seventy-Eighth Report on Disaster Management in the Country pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. The One Hundred Seventy-Eighth Report of the Committee was presented to the Rajya Sabha and Laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 19th February, 2014. After presentation of the Report, the copies thereof were sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs requesting them to furnish Action Taken Notes on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Report. The Ministry furnished the Action Taken Notes on the said report to the Committee on 3rd December, 2014.

3. The Minister of Home Affairs laid the Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the said Report of the Committee on the Table of Rajya Sabha/ Lok Sabha on 4th and 3rd March, 2015, respectively, pursuant to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha's Direction dated 24th September 2004.

4. The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* its background note on the Natural Disasters caused by devastating unseasonal rains, hailstorm and thunderstorm followed by earthquake in various parts of the country and ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected States meant for Committee's meeting held on 7th May, 2015 apprised the Committee about the financial mechanism as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission to mitigate the damage caused by the natural disaster. The relevant portion has been incorporated in the Report.

5. The Committee in its sitting held on 11th June, 2015 considered and adopted the draft Report.

NEW DELHI;
11th June, 2015
Ashadha 20, 1937 (Saka)

P. BHATTACHARYA
Chairman,
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Home Affairs
Rajya Sabha

ACRONYMS

APSDMP	:	Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Plan
AEP	:	Airport Emergency Plan
AWS	:	Automatic Weather Stations
ACA	:	Additional Central Assistance
ATI	:	Administrative Training Institute
APSDRF	:	Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Response Force
BSNL	:	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
BRO	:	Border Road Organisation
BMTPC	:	Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council
CRF	:	Calamity Relief Fund
CSS	:	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
CISF	:	Central Industrial Security Force
C&AG	:	Controller & Auditor General
CNE	:	Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure
CWCS	:	Cyclone Warning Dissemination System
CERTI	:	Central Emergency Relief Training Institute
CBDM	:	Community Based Disaster Management
CRO	:	Complex & Central Reservation Office
CPMF	:	Central Para Military Forces
CD	:	Civil Defence
CPCL	:	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
CEO	:	Chief Executive Officer
CBDM	:	Capacity Building in Disaster Management
CGI	:	Corrugated Galvanized Iron
CLRI	:	Central Leather Research Institute
CPRO	:	Chief Public Relation Officers
CAR	:	Civil Aviation Requirements
CSR	:	Corporate Social Responsibility
CBRN	:	Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear

DGCA	:	Director General Civil Aviation
DIAL	:	Delhi International Airports (P) Ltd.
DAEP	:	Delhi Airport Emergency Plan
DDMA	:	District Disaster Management Authority
DMI	:	Disaster Management Institute
DDWS	:	Digital Disaster Warning System
DMS	:	Disaster Management Support
DDMP	:	District Disaster Management Plan
DPR	:	Detailed Project Report
DM	:	Disaster Management
DMSAR	:	Disaster Management Synthetic Aperture Radar
DAC	:	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
DG	:	Director General
DRR	:	Disaster Risk Reduction
EOC	:	Emergency Operation Centre
ETRP	:	Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project
ENS	:	Earthquake Notification System
EPZ	:	Emergency Planning Zone
EMS	:	Environmental Management System
ECC	:	Emergency Communication Centre
EOC	:	Emergency Operation Centre
EFC	:	Expenditure Finance Committee
FFC	:	Fourteenth Finance Commission
FFTPs	:	Face to Face Training Programs
FLC	:	Fishing Landing Centres
FLEWS	:	Flood Early Warning System
GOI	:	Government of India
GSDMA	:	Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority
GSI	:	Geological Survey of India
HR	:	Human Resource
HRVA	:	Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis
HLC	:	High Level Committee
HSC	:	Hazard Safety Cell

ISRO	:	Indian Space Research Organization
IMG	:	Inter Ministerial Group
IMCT	:	Inter-Ministerial Central Team
IGIA	:	Indira Gandhi International Airport
ICAO	:	International Civil Aviation Organization
IIPA	:	Indian Institute of Public Administration
ITBP	:	Indo-Tibetan Border Police
IDMC	:	India Drought Management Centre
IDNDR	:	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IGNOU	:	Indira Gandhi National Open University
IOCI	:	Indian Oil Corporation of India
KSDMA	:	Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority
KSNDMC	:	Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre
MoEF	:	Ministry of Environment and Forest
MDP	:	Major Development Plan
MNRE	:	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
MRDS	:	Mobile Radiation Detection System
MCP	:	Manual Call Point
MAPS	:	Madras Atomic Power Station
MFL	:	Madras Fertilisers Limited
MOP	:	Manual of Officer Procedure
MoRT&H	:	Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
MNREGA	:	Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MHA	:	Ministry of Home Affairs
MCGM	:	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
NPP	:	Nuclear Power Plants
NEC	:	National Executive Committee
NIDM	:	National Institute of Disaster Management
NRSC	:	National Remote Sensing Centre
NDRF	:	National Disaster Response Force
NCMC	:	National Crisis Management Committee
NDMP	:	National Disaster Management Plan
NSSP	:	National School Safety Project

NDEM	:	National Database for Emergency Management
NPCIL	:	Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited
NSS	:	National Service Scheme
NPDRR	:	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
NDMA	:	National Disaster Management Authority
NCDC	:	National Civil Defence College
NFSC	:	National Fire Service College
NCCF	:	National Calamity Contingency Fund
NCRMP	:	National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project
NCC	:	National Cadet Corps
NCRF	:	National Calamity Relief Fund
NoK	:	Next of Kin
OED	:	Off-site Emergency Director
OHSMS	:	Occupational Health and Safety Management System
OEC	:	Off-site Emergency Committee
OHS	:	Occupational Health Services
PMC	:	Project Management Consultant
PIU	:	Project Implementation Unit
PSHA	:	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Map of India
SWOT	:	Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
SED	:	Site Emergency Director
SCE	:	Shift Charge Engineer
SPIU	:	State Project Implementing Unit
SDSC	:	Satish Dhawan Space Centre
SEC	:	State Executive Committee
SCMC	:	State Crisis Management Committee
SFC	:	Standing Finance Committee
SPA	:	Special Plan Assistance
SFDR	:	State Fund for Disaster Response
SOP	:	Standard of Procedure
SDRF	:	State Disaster Response Force
TF	:	Task Force
TOR	:	Terms of Reference

TPL	:	Tamil Nadu Petro-products Limited
TRP	:	Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme
TPQA	:	Third Party Quality Auditor
ULB	:	Urban Local Bodies
UNDP	:	United Nation Development Programme
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund
UTs	:	Union Territories
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
VPN	:	Virtual Private Network
WBSDMA	:	West Bengal State Disaster Management Authority
WANO	:	World Association of Nuclear Operators

REPORT

The Action Taken Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy Eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Disaster Management. Report of the Committee was presented to the Parliament on 19th February, 2015.

2. Action Taken Notes (ATNs) received from the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of the observations/recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy Eighth Report have been categorized as follows:

Chapter I : The observations/recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government: Paras: 2.12.3, 2.13.4, 2.14.4, 2.23.8, 2.23.9, 2.24.6, 2.25.3, 2.26.3, 4.2.5, 4.4.3, 4.4.5, 4.6.4, 4.6.5, 4.6.6, 4.9.7, 4.10.5, 4.11.9, 4.12.3, 4.19.8, 4.21.8, 5.2.8, 6.11.7, 6.11.14, 7.10.5, 7.13.2, 7.14.2, 7.15.10, 8.7.2, 8.7.3, 8.7.4, 8.7.7 (of the One Hundred Seventy Eighth Report) Total Recommendations-31;

The Committee is pleased to note that the Ministry has accepted thirty one of its recommendations as mentioned in Chapter - I of the Report.

Chapter II : The observations/recommendations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: - Paras: 2.15.3, 2.16.5, 2.17.4, 2.17.6, 2.18.2, 2.19.6, 6.11.6, 7.15.3, 7.15.4 and 7.15.7 (*ibid*) Total Recommendations- 10;

The Committee is convinced with the explanation furnished by the Ministry and, therefore, does not want to pursue the recommendations further.

Chapter III : The observations/recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee: Paras: 2.3.7, 2.4.3, 2.8.6, 2.10.4, 2.11.4, 2.22.2, 2.23.6, 3.6.2, 2.3.11, 2.7.3, 2.9.4, 2.20.7, 2.27.3, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 4.2.4, 4.4.4, 4.8.8, 4.13.5, 4.13.7, 4.13.8, 4.13.6, 4.22.6, 4.25.3, 4.26.2, 6.6.4, 6.6.6, 6.10.4, 6.10.20, 6.11.3, 6.11.4, 6.11.9, 6.11.12, 6.11.13, 7.9.5., 7.10.4, 7.10.5, 8.7.5 and 8.7.5 (*ibid*) Total Recommendations- 39

The Committee expresses its concern over the non-implementation of thirty-nine of its recommendations contained in Chapter-III and desires that the Ministry should take further necessary action and furnish convincing replies in respect of those recommendations within a time frame of three months after presentation of the Report.

Chapter-IV : The observations/recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited: Para: 2.5.4, 2.6.3, 2.20.6, 2.21.3, 2.23.7, 3.6.5, 3.6.6, 4.3.6, 4.5.5, 4.5.6, 4.5.7, 4.7.6, 4.8.9, 4.8.10, 4.18.4, 4.20.4, 4.20.5, 4.21.9, 4.23.3, 4.24, 5.5.5, 5.6.6, 5.11.7, 5.11.8, 6.10.11, 6.10.14, 6.10.16, 6.11.5, 6.11.8, 6.11.10, 6.11.11, 7.9.6, 8.7.8, 8.7.9 and 8.7.10 (ibid) Total Recommendations- 35. .

In respect of the thirty-five recommendations placed in Chapter-IV, the Committee feels that the Ministry has either furnished interim replies or couched its response in vague terms. The Committee desires that the Ministry should furnish pointed and detailed Action Taken Notes in respect of the recommendations categorized in Chapter-IV in detail and to the point, as per the intention and spirit of the recommendations of the Committee within three months.

The para-wise details of the ATNs are being discussed, as per the categorisation indicated above, in the succeeding Chapters.

CHAPTER- I

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation

1.1 The Committee desires that whenever NDMA appoints experts/consultants, the Terms of Reference (TOR) of consultants should be clearly indicated which inter-alia include precise statement of objectives, tasks to be carried out, schedule for completion of tasks and final outputs. (para 2.12.3)

Action Taken

1.1.1 The Term of Reference for engagement of Consultants have been already fixed by the NDMA in respect of Plan Scheme Expertise for Planning Process which inter-alia includes Precise Statement of Objectives, Outline of the tasks to be carried out, Schedule for completion of Tasks, the support or inputs to be provided by the National Disaster Management Authority to facilitate the Consultancy, the final outputs / deliverables that will be required from the Consultant at the end of the consultancy period.

Recommendation

1.2 The Committee feels that NDMA should be prompt in monitoring the execution of its programs/projects to avoid time and cost overrun. The training material so developed should be effectively utilized for future training programmes. (para 2.13.4)

Action Taken

1.2.1 The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* its letter dated 13th Nov. 2014 has advised NDMA to monitor their programme / projects regularly to avoid time and cost overrun and utilize the training material developed for such programmes for their future trainings.

Recommendation

1.3 The Committee understands that the NEC is responsible for monitoring the implementation of NDMA guidelines. Keeping in view the observation of C&AG on the non-implementation of National Guidelines on Drought Management as issued in 2010 by NDMA, the Committee recommends that the responsibility of ensuring implementation of guidelines as issued by NDMA must lie with NDMA. The Committee is of the view that NDMA should even otherwise undertake review exercise to assess and ensure the implementation of its National Disaster Management Guidelines. (para 2.14.4)

Action Taken

1.3.1 The guidelines of NDMA are not mandatory in nature and depend on the decisions of the concerned State Government on whether to follow these guidelines or make their own policies or programmes as per the availability of resources and the feasibility of their implementation. This is consistent with the existing State laws and the framework of governance. This is an ongoing process. However, the States would continue to be encouraged to adopt guidelines framed by the NDMA. As stated earlier on the recommendation of the Task Force, the Government is considering to assign the task of monitoring the implementation of the guidelines to NDMA.

Further Observation

1.3.2 The Committee strongly recommends that the Central Government must continue to encourage all the stakeholders to adopt National Disaster Management Guidelines framed by the NDMA and the task of monitoring and even the review exercise to assess implementation of the guidelines must be entrusted to NDMA without delay.

Recommendation

1.4 Capacity building should not be limited to professionals and personnel involved in disaster management but should also focus on building the knowledge, attitude and skills of a community to cope with the effects of disasters. Capacity building for effective disaster management therefore needs linked to the community and local level responders on the one hand and also to the institutional mechanism of the State and the Nation on the other. The Committee desires that all out efforts should be made to warn communities in any part of the country about extreme weather conditions substantially well in advance to enable them to save the lives and property. Satellite imagery has become an important tool for decision makers in getting alerts for disasters and in assessing the situation pre and post disaster. These capabilities need further refinement and intensification to enable functionaries at the district level to take appropriate and timely decisions. Therefore, the concerned departments *viz.*, Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Space and the organizations under them need to be strengthened to provide advance and effective information on disasters. It is also necessary to create a national platform for sharing, using and disseminating the data. (para 2.23.8)

Action Taken

1.4.1 Capacity Building and Capacity Enhancement is a continuous process. Government of India with the assistance from United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and European Union had already implemented programmes in 176 most hazard prone districts in 17 States on Disaster Risk Management. These Programmes aimed at putting in place sustainable initiatives with the involvement of local self-government institutions and communities. The States were assisted to draw up State, District, Block level, and Village level disaster management Plans in conjunction with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Disaster Management Teams consisting of village volunteers

were trained in preparedness and response functions such as search and rescue, first-aid, relief coordination, shelter management plans etc. The State and District level multi-hazard resistant Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) were also set up under this programme including provision of equipment for EOCs.

1.4.2 The Government of India *vide* its resolution dated 26th February, 2013 has already constituted a multi stakeholders National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) where all the stakeholders in the field of Disaster Management and people representing different interests in the area share their experiences. The first session of NPDRR was held during 13-14, May 2013.

1.4.3 NDMA, NIDM and NCDC are conducting various awareness programmes for school children and local population. They also conduct mock drills and workshops for the common people at various locations across the country.

Recommendation

1.5 The Committee feels that the Human Resources Development has to be made systematic. Mere training alone is not enough to develop the capacities. The trainers and trainees have to be selected systematically and there should be provisions for refresher training and utilization of the trained personnel. In addition there should be an enabling environment to facilitate the mainstreaming of DRR and tools and methodologies developed. (para 2.23.9)

Action Taken

1.5.1 The institutes which are providing training in the field of disaster management have been advised by Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* letter dated 2nd December, 2014 to make modules for refresher training courses and also to develop modules, tools and methodologies for facilitating the mainstreaming of DRR.

Recommendation

1.6 The Committee underlines the significant role of Civil Defence in the case of occurrence of any disaster in the Country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all efforts should be made for strengthening and revitalization of Civil Defence in the Country and the Government should allocate adequate fund as contingent amount for the purpose. (para 2.24.6)

Action Taken

1.6.1 Considering the significant role of Civil Defence in the case of occurrence of any disaster in the Country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an outlay of ₹100 crore was launched for Revamping of Civil Defence Setup in the Country in April, 2009 during the 11th Plan Period with the objective to strengthen and revitalize the Civil Defence in the Country so as to play a significant role in Disaster Management. Under this scheme, major activities undertaken were strengthening of the physical infrastructure of the existing State Training Institutes, creation of new Training Institutes in some States, creation of physical

infrastructure in certain Multi-Hazard Districts and training of Master Trainers and CD volunteers etc. The scheme was completed in March, 2013.

1.6.2 With a view to give a further boost to the Civil Defence in the Country, another Centrally Sponsored Scheme at an outlay of ₹ 290 crore has been approved in the 12th Five Year Plan Period to Mainstream Civil Defence in Disaster Risk Reduction so as to become an effective tool for disaster management and also to keep the Civil Defence in forefront in the Disaster Management strategy of the Country.

Recommendation

1.7 The Committee recognizes the role of National Civil Defence College (NCDC) in disaster relief and management training. The Committee is of the view that while deciding the officers for undergoing training at the centre, due care must be taken that nomination for training must come from all States/UTs. (Para 2.25.3)

Action Taken

1.7.1 A table indicating the Utilization of Training facilities of NCDC by various organizations is as under:-

(i)	State Civil Defence / Home Guards/ Fire & Emergency Services	–	53%
(ii)	Public Sector Industries	–	8%
(iii)	Central Para Military Organisations	–	14%
(iv)	Defence (NCC Directorate/Army/Air Force & Navy)	–	10%
(v)	Organisations (Municipal Corporations/NGO's etc.)	–	05%

1.7.2 It may be noted that the States are utilizing these training facilities by nominating candidates in good strength.

Recommendation

1.8 In recent years, the country has witnessed many incidents of fire causing huge loss of lives and property. Therefore the role of National Fire Service College (NFSC) becomes more important in imparting training to personnel of State Fire Services and brigades in all spheres of fire engineering. The Committee recommends that NFSC should get benefits of the experience and expertise of institutions of other leading countries where the occurrence of fire incidents take place frequently and incorporate the same in its curriculum. The Committee also feels that there is need of a Plan for Fire Services at National and State level. The experience of developed countries may be looked into in this regard. (para 2.26.3)

Action Taken

1.8.1 The Fire service in India is a municipal function and comes under the XIIth Schedule of the Constitution under the provisions of Article 243 W of the Constitution.

1.8.2 Presently, the fire services are organized by the concerned States, Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Over the period, the role of the fire services has changed and now the fire services respond to all emergent situations such as terrorist attacks, hazardous material incidents, urban rescue, collapse operations, underwater rescue etc. in addition to the conventional role of fire-fighting. Considering the importance of Fire Services, the Government has approved the following schemes:

- (i) Up-gradation of National Fire Service College (NFSC) for ₹205 crore to enhance the capacity of NFSC to meet the requirements of specialized professional training in all aspects namely fire prevention, fire protection and firefighting, rescue, specialized emergency response in the event of disaster.
- (ii) A Plan Scheme for Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services in the Country at an outlay of ₹200 crore was launched in 28 States during the 11th Plan period with the objective to strengthen the fire services in the country and transforming it into multi hazard response force capable of acting in all types of emergencies. The Scheme was completed in March, 2013.
- (iii) With a view to modernize the Fire and Emergency Service in the Country, another centrally sponsored scheme at an outlay of ₹75 crore for the financial year 2014-15 has been approved and is under implementation.

Further Observation

1.8.3 The Committee desires that allocation of ₹205 crore for up-gradation of National Fire Service College (NFSC) would ensure to meet the requirement of specialized professional training in all aspects and the plan scheme of ₹200 crore meant for strengthening of fire and emergency service in the country, which has been completed in March, 2013 would have injected professional proficiency in combating all types of emergencies. The Committee would further like to know the activities to be undertaken in centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of ₹75 crore for 2015.

Recommendation

1.9 The Committee observes that community based Disaster Management is the need of the hour. (para 4.2.5)

Action Taken

1.9.1 The Government of India's focus on Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) approach promotes community involvement and strengthening of their capacities for vulnerability reduction through decentralized planning. Towards effective building of community resilience, India has put in place a legal and institutional framework for disaster management such as enactment of The Disaster Management (DM) Act 2005, DM policy 2009, setting up of disaster management authorities at various levels, institutions for capacity development, financial mechanism for disaster response and earmarking of 10% of funds in all development schemes for disaster mitigation, restoration and innovation.

1.9.2 Looking at the importance of creating community resilience, Government of India has initiated some dedicated schemes related to fire services, civil defence, school safety, flood management, earthquake and cyclone Risk mitigation and early warning systems ensuring participation of the communities in risk reduction activities. Some of the major Social Protection Programmes by the Government of India where mainstreaming of DRR has been initiated are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid day Meal etc. for food security, health and hygiene promotion, housing, drinking water and education for poorer sections of the society, which not only are contributing to risk reduction but also enhancing the inbuilt capacity of the community to minimize the risk and manage the adverse impact of any disaster.

Recommendation

1.10 The Committee observes that mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning, must be a priority concern for the State Government. The ultimate objective of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction should be to ensure that risks emanating from natural hazards are factored into development policy and planning and considered as a matter of course in the design of all development projects and programs in hazard-prone areas. The Committee, therefore, recommends that suitable course of Action should be chalked out for the purpose. (para 4.4.3)

Action Taken

1.10.1 Government of India has made it mandatory that each project (plan and non-plan) in a natural hazard prone area will have to include disaster prevention/mitigation as a pre-condition and the project document has to address those conditions. Also, adoption of structural and non-structural mitigation measures through various ongoing programmes such as National School Safety Programme, National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project and Gol-UNDP DRR project are being promoted.

Recommendation

1.11 The Committee observes that there is need for effective implementation of techno-legal regime and redirecting the development towards creation of less vulnerable infrastructure and improvement of response mechanism in emergency situation. The Committee feels that Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) must be recognized as a Knowledge hub for training and research in the field of Disaster Management. (para 4.4.5)

Action Taken

1.11.1 The need for effective implementation of techno-legal regime and redirecting the development towards creation of less vulnerable infrastructure and improvement of response mechanism in emergency situation cannot be denied. The Ministry of Home Affairs had been pursuing with the Ministry of Urban Development for bringing in amendments in building bye-laws, land use zoning regulations, development controlled regulations, Town and Country Planning Acts in various States to ensure structural safety against natural hazards and to

strengthen the mechanisms for their compliance. As a result, most of the States have amended the building bye-laws. During the First session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May, 2013 there was a session on Making Our City Safe which emphasized the need for enforcing techno-legal regime.

1.11.2 All the ATIs including GIDM are functioning as training and knowledge centres.

Recommendations

1.12 The Committee is in agreement with the comments of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the suggestions of the State and desires that suitable action should be taken to complete all the tasks. (para 4.6.4)

1.12.1 The Committee also takes note of the following suggestions of the State Government for strengthening Disaster Management set up:-

- (i) Inclusion of Climate Change into the Disaster Management Department portfolio
Convergence of Civil Defence with in Disaster Management Department and
Convergence of NCC, NSS, NYK within Disaster Management department to
create cadre of Volunteers.
- (ii) Mainstreaming of Disaster management into the departmental plan of line
departments and Advocacy with International Donors/NGOs/Civil Societies to
come up with State specific Disaster Management Policies followed by
recognition to the State Inter Agency Group for collective Disaster Management
at State. (para 4.6.5)

1.12.2 The Committee recommends that suitable strategy may be chalked out to achieve the above objectives. (para 4.6.6)

Action Taken

1.12.3 The recommendation of the Committee is about Jharkhand and has been communicated to the State Government. The State Government has informed that it has included Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into the Disaster Management Department portfolio. All the disaster plans are being updated covering CCA. Mainstreaming of the Disaster Management is being done in various departments of the State.

Recommendation

1.13 The Committee agrees that structural and non-structural measures should be integral part of both the overall development process and relief and recovery activities and steps should be taken in this direction. The Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the State has to prepare State and District DM plans. If so, the Committee recommends that the plans may be prepared at the earliest. (para 4.9.7)

Action Taken

1.13.1 The recommendations of the Committee is about Odisha. The State Government of Odisha has notified its State Disaster Management Plan in May, 2014. The State Government

has informed that the District Disaster Management Plans have been prepared by 28 of the 30 districts in the State. The Plans of remaining 2 districts are under preparation.

Recommendation

1.14 The Committee took note of weaknesses of disaster management set up in the State which *inter-alia* includes sharing of international border of 1040 km with Pakistan, scarcity of water (197 blocks are in dark zone), extreme weather conditions, non-availability of mitigation funds, need to update IDRN Web Portal, and absence of concrete early warning system. The Committee, therefore, feels that there is need to strengthen the Disaster Management set-up in the State by appointment of requisite staff and officers in SDMA, SEC and DDMA and setting up of National, State and District Disaster Mitigation Fund, Preparation of Disaster Management Plans at sub-division and village level to be, accompanied by participation and training of CBOs and continuation of DRR & URR projects. The Hazard Risk Vulnerability Analysis for select district which is at planning stage, should be completed at the earliest and as suggested by the State Government cold wave and heat wave may be categorized as natural calamity. (Para 4.10.5)

Action Taken

1.14.1 The Proposal for creation of National Disaster Mitigation Fund as per Section 47 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 was under consideration in consultation with NDMA. However, since provision of 10% Flexi fund within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to be utilized *inter alia* for mitigation/restoration activities in the event of natural calamities in the Sectors covered by Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been made, a separate Mitigation Fund may not be required.

1.14.2 The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that IDRN Web Portal is being regularly updated. Dopplar Radar has been established in the State. Disaster Management & Relief Department is functioning as Secretariat of SDMA and District Collector / Addl. District Collector etc. are looking after DDMA. State Disaster Management Plan has been prepared. DM Plans of all districts have been prepared and being updated. DM Plans of tehsil & village level are under preparation. DM Plans are being updated with Hazard Risk Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) concept. Cold wave & frost have been declared as natural calamity.

Further Recommendation

1.14.3 The Committee desires that as suggested by the State Government of Rajasthan heat wave may also be declared as natural calamity.

Recommendation

1.15 The Committee feels that concerted efforts should be made for training and capacity building on Disaster Risk reduction, creation of pool of community volunteers on search and rescue, identifying 3-4 departments at the State level. and develop joint action plan for mainstreaming DRR into the ongoing development programs and plans to strengthen last mile connectivity for early warning system for floods and cyclone. There is further need to establish DM Training Institute under Department of Disaster Management for continuous

capacity building of DM officers at all level and to raise one full-fledged battalion of State Search and Rescue Force. The Committee also suggests that WBSDMA may be made functional if not made so far. Disaster Management may be mainstreamed into fire and emergency and civil defence activities. (para 4.11.9)

Action Taken

1.15.1 The recommendation is about West Bengal. As per Disaster Management Act every State is required to set up SDMA and make it operational. The State Government from time to time is being impressed upon to take necessary steps in this regard. As far as Central Government is concerned, the Centre for Disaster Management, LBSNAA, Mussoorie has been imparting modules on disaster management to IAS and other Central Services Officers at entry and senior levels.

1.15.2 NDMA in collaboration with IGNOU has implemented a pilot project on capacity building on disaster management of Government officials, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies by imparting them Face to Face Training Programmes at 432 centres in hazard prone 54 districts of 11 States. Besides this, NIDM is also imparting training to the State Government officers.

Recommendation

1.16 The Committee observes that there is urgent need for strengthening and streamlining institutions of disaster management set up in the State of Arunachal Pradesh in view of its terrain and topography. The Committee observes that there is lack of proper awareness/knowledge on disaster among the stakeholders. The Committee, therefore, recommends for suitable action in that direction. The Committee also desires that Disaster Management components need to be incorporated in the day to day activities as well as workplace and proper coordination and cooperation of various government departments, Administration and the community is also required. (para 4.12.3)

Action Taken

1.16.1 The recommendation is about Arunachal Pradesh. The State Government has informed that the Department of Disaster Management was given an Amount of ₹25.0 lakhs for the year 2010-11, ₹30.0 lakhs for 2011-12. ₹40 lakhs for 2012-13 and ₹45 lakhs for 2013-14 under Plan Head by the State Government. These funds have been utilized at State Level. Funds were also allocated to the Deputy Commissioners/ADC's for organizing Awareness campaign Training/ Sensitization programmes for all the Stakeholders in the districts.

1.16.2 Under the 13th FC, the grants for Capacity Building for Disaster Response @ ₹1.00 crore per year have been utilized for the periods 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13. At State level, the fund is used for organizing Mock Drills/ Trainings/ Workshops, Awareness Generation and Sensitization activities. The fund is also allocated to all the DCs for conducting various trainings/workshops / awareness generation activities at State / District/ Block Community level.

Recommendation

1.17 The Committee observes that the Disaster Management set up in the State can be strengthened by enhancement of capacity building of all stakeholders and community, better and effective functioning of all the Emergency Operation Centre by improving the functioning of the disaster management institutional frameworks such as SDMA, DDMA and Disaster Management Training Institutes. The functioning of the SDMA can be made more effective by providing experts and professionals in disaster management, well equipped libraries and exposure visits of the stakeholders to other States where disaster management institutions are functioning effectively. Awareness generation must be made up to the grass root level and providing vertical and horizontal linkages in disaster management planning. (para 4.19.8)

Action Taken

1.17.1 As per the requirement of the Disaster Management Act, it is for State Governments to facilitate better disaster management planning, training awareness generation and improving response mechanism.

1.17.2 The State Government of Meghalaya has informed that the Government has made Meghalaya Disaster Management Rules, 2010. These rules have the provisions for : composition of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) & District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) and State Executive Committee (SEC), meetings of the SDMA & DDMA, officers and staff for SDMA & DDMA, constitution of State, District & Other Advisory Committees, procedures to be followed by the SDMA & DDMA and SEC etc.

Recommendation

1.18 The Committee observes that the State is striving to integrate disaster management components into development planning and processes but it would be effective and result oriented only if suitable guidelines are prepared for State Government/Ministries, etc. for incorporating specific disaster management components into specific planning and develop process. The Committee in this background recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs may consider and examine the suggestions of State Government of Tripura. (para 4.21.8)

Action Taken

1.18.1 This Recommendation is about State of Tripura. In this connection it may be mentioned that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), since its inception, from time to time, has issued a total of 18 different guidelines and 11 reports on diverse issues of disaster management, which can be availed from their website www.ndma.gov.in. The Government of Tripura has been advised to make 'use of these guidelines/reports for incorporating specific disaster management components into specific planning and develop process. For any specific assistance in this regard, they can approach NDMA or MHA in this regard.

Recommendation

1.19 The Committee notes the disaster management arrangements as well as preparedness at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and Rajiv Gandhi International Airport,

Hyderabad. The Committee is of the view that both the airports have the most modern system in place. The Committee desires that other airports in the country should also have similar and modern disaster management arrangements. In all the airports, there should be regular Disaster Management rehearsal and the arrangements should be reviewed from time to time. (para 5.2.8)

Action Taken

1.19.1 The Airport Authority of India has already approved Disaster Management Plan for the Airports and their Fire Directorate has prepared the guidelines and circulated to all metro I non-metro Airports of the country for local preparation of the Disaster Management Plan with given guidelines.

Recommendation

1.20 The Committee understands that the entire western Himalayan region, including Uttarakhand, are prone to disasters and requires better preparedness measures including installation of effective and timely early warning systems for predicting various hydro-meteorological disasters well in advance with high degree of spatial accuracy. Moreover, a robust and fool-proof safe disaster dissemination system is required to be accompanied by a long term full-fledged preparedness and mitigation programme. The Committee understands that financial requirement involving all these projects is beyond the capability and competence of the State Government and Government of India has to take initiative in this regard. (para 6.11.7)

Action Taken

1.20.1 Indian Meteorological Department has proposed an Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme to provide effective and user specific mountain meteorological services in holistic manner in following two parts:-

- (i) Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme for Western & Central Himalayas covering four States namely J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sub Himalayan West Bengal has been approved by the Government in August, 2014 at an estimated cost of ₹117.17 crores to be implemented in the 12th Five Year Plan (2014-17).
- (ii) Similarly, another proposal “Integrated Meteorological Services for North Eastern Region”, covering States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim has been submitted to the M/o Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for in principle approval and funding. IMD has also made a presentation to the M/o DoNER in Oct. 2013. Approval is awaited from the M/o DoNER for further processing of the proposal.

1.20.2 Once this programme is implemented, it could be possible to make precise prediction about Hydro Meteorological Disasters well in advance.

Recommendation

1.21 The Committee also notes that some sections in the media attributed this disaster as a manmade disaster due to extensive human intervention in the fragile Himalayan eco-system. While it is obvious that calamity of this level could not have been averted totally, but environmentalists kept saying that the exploitation has been very large with the neglect of environmental concerns which have been expressed by them over a period of time. The Committee feels that development and environment should go hand in hand. (para 6.11.14)

Action Taken

1.21.1 In this connection, it is worth mentioning that as per the Ministry of Finance guidelines, a self-certification is required from all the project authorities to confirm before the approval of the scheme that all the Disaster Management concerns including environmental issues have been adequately addressed. However, MHA on 3rd December, 2014 has advised all the States and Central Ministries / Departments that while preparing / approving / clearing any developmental projects, the recommendation of the Committee that development and environment should go hand in hand may be kept in mind.

Recommendation

1.22 The Committee desires that Planning Commission must respond quickly to the needs of the Central Ministries/Departments/States in matters relating to the plan for meeting situations arising out of natural disasters, by enabling adjustment of schemes to meet the requirements as far as possible. A mechanism should be evolved to take expeditious decisions on proposals which involve transfer of funds from one scheme to another, or any other change which involves departure from the existing schemes/pattern of assistance, new schemes and relaxation in procedures, etc. in the case of natural disasters. (para 7.10.5)

Action Taken

1.22.1 Recently, Government has introduced flexi funds within the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to undertake mitigation / restoration activities in case of natural calamities. With this mechanism for situations arising out of natural disasters, an enabling provision for adjustment of the schemes to meet the requirements has been made.

Recommendation

1.23 The Committee feels that capacity building is an important aspect for Disaster Management. State Government should take necessary steps in taking up the activities. Under utilisation of funds should not be resorted to. Action plans as required for utilizing funds may be prepared. (para 7.13.2)

Action Taken

1.23.1 The Grant in Aid for Capacity Building is given to the State as per recommendation of 13th FC. The issue of under-utilisation of the fund was flagged with the States and they were advised to use it and give the utilization certificates for release of next instalments.

Recommendation

1.24 The Committee understands that strengthening of fire and emergency services is a significant scheme. The Committee however, observes that Fire Services are in an archaic condition in the country. There should be total modernization and overhauling of the Fire Services. If more funds are required for this purpose, it may be considered. The Committee recommends that all municipal corporations should put in place fire hazard response and mitigation plan. (para 7.14.2)

Action Taken

1.24.1 The Fire service in India is a municipal function and comes under the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution under the provisions of Article 243 W of the Constitution.

1.24.2 Presently, the fire services are organized by the concerned States, Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Over the period, the role of the fire services has changed and now the fire services respond to all emergent situations such as terrorist attacks, hazardous material incidents, urban rescue, collapse operations, underwater rescue etc., in addition to the conventional role of fire-fighting. Considering the importance of Fire Services, the Government has approved the following schemes:-

- (i) Up-gradation of National Fire Service College (NFSC) for ₹205 crore to enhance the capacity of NFSC to meet the requirements of specialized professional training in all aspects namely fire prevention, fire protection and firefighting, rescue, specialized emergency response in the event of disaster.
- (ii) A Plan Scheme for Strengthening of Fire and Emergency Services in the Country at an outlay of ₹ 200 crore was launched in 28 States during the 11th Plan period with the objective to strengthen the fire services in the country and transforming it into multi hazard response force capable of acting in all types of emergencies. The Scheme was completed in March, 2013.
- (iii) With a view to modernize the Fire and Emergency Service in the Country, another centrally sponsored scheme at an outlay of ₹75 crore for the financial year 2014-15 has been approved and is under implementation.

Recommendation

1.25 The Committee is in agreement with the observation of the Task Force regarding the nomenclature of the response fund and recommends that necessary action be taken in this direction. (Para 7.15.10)

Action Taken

1.25.1 Since the NDRF is generally used for 'Response Force' and people are more familiar with this, it has been decided to use the word NDR Fund for National Disaster Response Fund.

Further Observation

1.25.2 The Committee agrees with the decision of the Government.

Recommendation

1.26 The Committee takes note of the policy/ guidelines and rules governing the disaster management in the country. The Committee is of the opinion that policy/ guidelines and rules will remain on the paper unless implemented on the ground level. The Committee feels that the follow up action expected from the nodal agencies in preparing plans to address these aspects of strengthening preparedness, prevention, mitigation, emergency response and recovery efforts in these critical sectors remains to be initiated. The National Disaster Management Guidelines on the management of various disasters should be followed by all stakeholder groups to ensure that the paradigm shift envisaged in the National Policy for Disaster Management does not remain an aspiration. (para 8.7.2)

Action Taken

1.26.1 The guidelines of NDMA are not mandatory in nature and depend on the decisions of the concerned State Government on whether to follow these guidelines or make their own policies or programmes as per the availability of resources and the feasibility of its implementation. This is consistent with the existing State laws and the framework of governance. This is an ongoing process. NDMA, however, has held discussions with Central Government /Organizations and States for, *inter-alia*, compliance with Disaster Management Guidelines released by NDMA.

1.26.2 The Ministries/Departments/Organizations reviewed by the Authority are:-

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fishery, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Chemical & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Land, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Earth Sciences., Department of Space, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Atomic Energy.

1.26.3 Discussion with the State Governments of Nagaland, West Bengal, Manipur, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh have been held. Discussions with other States have been planned in the near future.

Recommendation

1.27 The Committee firmly believes that there should be monitoring mechanism to ensure implementation of the guidelines and rules. The Committee, in this connection, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs/NDMA should act as nodal agencies. The Ministry of Home Affairs should interact with the concerned Ministries related to DM activities, which either

have come out with their own policy, plans and regulatory mechanisms for management of disasters pertaining to their domain or are at different stages of its formulations. The Committee hopes that the concerned Ministries, States and the stakeholders would also work in tandem with NDMA and Union Ministry of Home Affairs and come up with effective and implementable plans at their level. (para 8.7.3)

Action Plan

1.27.1 As per Disaster Management Act, the National Executive Committee (NEC) is a body to act as the coordinating and monitoring body for Disaster Management and also to monitor the implementation of guidelines laid down by the National Authority for integrating the measures for prevention of disaster and mitigation by the Ministries or Departments in their development plans and projects. The NEC review the status of preparedness in its meeting chaired by Home Secretary. So far 20 meeting of NEC have been held.

1.27.2 The Disaster Management Act envisages that each Central Ministry / Department will work in a cohesive manner to implement the various provisions of the Act for effective management of disasters and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Government once again resolves to follow holistic approach for disaster management.

Further Observation

1.27.3 The Committee notes the submission of the Government. It however feels that a lot is still required to make the country more disaster resilient with a motto of having the approach towards ‘Zero loss of life and minimum loss of property’ along with fast pace of rehabilitation and compensation. The Committee in this context appreciate the aim of the Odisha Government which has adopted the principle of Zero loss of life.

Recommendation

1.28 The Committee underscores the fact that since the DM Act provides provision for preparation of Disaster Management plan at National, State and District level, integrated and coordinated approach would be the first and foremost requirement. The Committee, therefore, recommends that every effort should be made to ensure that different types and levels of disaster management plans are consistent with each other. The Committee also recommends that plans at the National and State level must be prepared on realistic and relevant grounds by taking into account various features and needs of smaller geographical units. (para 8.7.4)

Action Taken

1.28.1 The National Plan on the Disaster Management has been prepared by the NEC in consultation with various Ministries / Departments and submitted to NDMA for their approval. On the basis of this plan, each Ministries / Department will be preparing their sectoral plan which ensures an integrated and coordinated approach. State Plan and District Plan will also be prepared on the same line once the National Plan is approved. Presently, SDMAs prepare

their State Disaster Management Plans on the basis of NDMA's guidelines issued in 2007 on preparation of State Disaster Management Plans which also contain model outlines for the State Plans.

Recommendation

1.29 The Committee views that the role and functions of the NDMA should cover policies, plans, guidelines and regulations relating to prevention, mitigation and preparedness. It should coordinate with the agencies concerned and ensure that all activities relating to prevention, mitigation and preparedness envisaged by the Act are implemented on the ground level.
(para 8.7.7)

Action Taken

1.29.1 This is one of the recommendations of the Task Force which is under consideration of the Government.

CHAPTER - II

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is of the view that provision of HLC may be made in the DM Act because HLC plays a pivotal role in determining the assistance to be given to the States from NDRF keeping into account the recommendation of Inter Ministerial Group (IMG). Since, the recommendation of Inter-ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is taken into account in deciding the quantum of assistance to be given to the State and at present NDMA has no representative in IMCT, it would be appropriate that there is a provision for nominating a representative of NDMA as a member of IMCT in the Act to have a linkage in the overall system. The Ministry may look into this. (para 2.15.3)

Action Taken

2.1.1 The Guidelines for constitution and administration of National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) includes (i) visit of IMCT to the State, (ii) examination of the IMCT report by the sub-committee of NEC and (iii) approval of the High Level Committee (HLC) based on recommendation of the sub-Committee of NEC in confirmation with the norms approved by the Government of India, IMCT report and extant norms. The representatives of IMCT are drawn from the concerned administrative Ministries, which are directly concerned with disaster affected sectors. As NDMA's basic objective is to bring out disaster related policies/guidelines etc., therefore, it is not considered useful to include a representative of NDMA in the IMCT. Moreover, the Vice Chairman of NDMA is a member of the HLC (the approving body for NDRF assistance) as a special invitee and any views/comments of NDMA are always considered by the HLC.

2.1.2 Moreover, Section 9 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 empowers the NEC to constitute one or more sub-committees for efficient discharge of its functions. Recently, NEC has constituted two sub-committees replacing the IMG. One of the sub-committees is headed by Home Secretary to consider the IMCT reports pertaining to cyclone, fire, floods, earthquake, landslide, avalanche, tsunami and cloud burst on behalf of the NEC. The second sub-committee is headed by Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperation to consider the IMCT reports pertaining to drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave & frost on behalf of the NEC. As IMG has been already replaced by these two sub-committees of NEC, there is no need to incorporate IMG in the Act. The Secretary (NDMA) is special invitee of the NEC.

2.1.3 In view of above, the HLC need not be incorporated in the DM Act, 2005.

Recommendation

2.2 The Committee takes note of the observation of NDMA that National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary has multifarious tasks in addition to natural disasters and entrusting all the functions of NEC to NCMC would detract NCMC. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should have brainstorming session involving all the stakeholders before taking any final decision in the matter. (para 2.16.5)

Action Taken

2.2.1 The NCMC which is chaired by Cabinet Secretary, has heavy responsibilities and its functional jurisdiction encompasses such other emergencies including those requiring close involvement of the security forces and or intelligence agencies such as terrorism, law and order situations, serial bomb blasts, high-jacking, air accident, CBRN weapon systems, mine disasters, port and harbor emergencies, forest fires, oil field fires, oil spills etc. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to bring NCMC under the preview of DM Act. The NCMC may continue to take charge of response operations by giving overall directions, leaving it to the NEC to carryout day to day response activities.

Recommendation

2.3 The Committee is of the view that SDMAs need to be strengthened so that assigned functions could be effectively performed. The Committee, however, feels that since the recommendation of the Task Force has far reaching implications, final decision in the matter may be taken by Government in consultation with State Governments. (para 2.17.4)

2.3.1 Committee is of the view that in case the Government takes the decision to assign the functions of SEC to SDMA, all efforts should be taken to restructure SDMA as per the recommendation of the Task Force. The NDMA management agreed to the recommendations of the Task Force. However, the final decision in the matter may be taken only after consulting the State Governments. (para 2.17.6)

Action Taken

2.3.2 The Task Force has made its recommendations after having discussions at the regional, local and national levels including with the State Governments. Moreover, the recommendations of the Task Force have been forwarded to all stakeholders including the State Governments for their views and suggestions. Only a few States have responded. Suggestions/responses of the States will be kept in mind while taking final decision.

Recommendation

2.4 The Committee observes that the recommendation of the Task Force for discontinuing SEC and assigning its task to State Crisis Management Committee (SCMC) and SDMA are on similar line as adopted for NCMC, NEC and NDMA. The Committee recommends that it will be appropriate if the proposal to assign the functions of SEC to SCMC is deliberated threadbare with the State Governments and necessary amendments are accordingly made in the Act thereafter. (para 2.18.2)

Action Taken

2.4.1 As stated in response to para 2.17.6, it is not proposed to make NCMC as a statutory organization and it may continue to take charge of response operations by giving overall directions, leaving it to the NEC to carryout day to day response activities. Similarly, the existing arrangement may continue in the States.

Recommendation

2.5 The Committee is of the considered view that the Government must give due consideration to strengthen the Disaster Management set up at the district level so that the district authority must be in a position to act as the first and foremost effective responder of the disaster in its locality. There should be mechanism of sustained and continuous work especially for preparedness and mitigation. The Committee also views that Disaster Risk Reduction Programme must be implemented at the grass root level keeping in view that the District Collector administers MNREGA and other land related programs. District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) should try to fill up vacancies on a regular basis. The Committee agrees that there is a need for organizational structure at the district level to address disaster management in a holistic manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should not delay in considering the observation of the Task Force. However, before arriving at final decision, the Government should consult all the stakeholders. (para 2.19.6)

Action Taken

2.5.1 As stated in response to para 2.17.4 & 2.17.6, the Task Force has made its recommendations after having discussion at regional, local and national levels including the State Governments. Moreover, the recommendations of the Task Force have been forwarded to all stakeholders including the State Governments for their views and suggestions. In view of this, consulting the all stakeholders again would further delay the implementation of the Task Force report. However, while taking any final decision on the strengthening of SDMAs and their functions. The suggestions/response of the State Governments would also be kept in mind.

Recommendation

2.6 The Committee would like to pin-point the case of coastal region of Andhra Pradesh where large number of cyclones has struck for the last few years and if there is a warning, the entire district administration one day before convert itself into disaster management unit. All concerned Departments remain ready with plans, evacuations and relief operations which immediately swing into action. The underline motive of the Committee is to highlight the necessity of keeping disaster preparedness all the time in operational mode to combat any eventualities by gaining the benefits of experience of other States. The Committee hopes that one State should share the information with the other States on all critical issues pertaining to Disaster Management which would go a long way in strengthening the Disaster Management set up in the State. (para 6.11.6)

Action Taken

2.6.1 Andhra Pradesh Government has been advised to share their experiences about combating eventualities with all the other States on all critical issues pertaining to Disaster Management.

Recommendation

2.7 The Committee observes that Government is making arrangements for laying cables which is all the more necessary due to variety of reasons. The recent cyclone 'Helen' affected Andhra Pradesh adversely. Some towns and villages around Amalapuram had no electricity for four days and there was no drinking water because of lack of power supply. That being the case, the Committee believes that scheme for providing underground cabling would be of immense utility in the long run in the affected areas, particularly, the coastal districts of both Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the project should be taken on priority and completed as per schedule. Other cyclone prone States should also be covered under the project. (para 7.15.3)

Action Taken

2.7.1 There is no doubt that the underground cabling would be of immense utility in the long run in the affected areas. The Ministry of Power has expressed their concern about possibility of reactive power due to underground cabling. However, State Government of Odisha has sought an external assistance of US \$ 70 Million for rehabilitating the damaged power sector infrastructure in the State.

Recommendation

2.8 The Committee was given to understand that the post disaster relief and reconstruction is resource intensive and the Government is making efforts to ensure availability of established financial mechanisms both at the State and Central level to address the resource requirements. The present scheme of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) are based on the recommendations of 13th Finance Commission operated from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2015 must be reviewed annually. For disasters needing Central support over and above the SDRF, the processing of the request of the State Governments for support from the Central Government must be taken into account and processed by Ministry of Home Affairs timely while the budgetary provisions for the relief funds must be provided by the Ministry of Finance as per the actual assessment. The Committee recommends that adequate funds should be allocated for strengthening of Disaster Management Institutions, Capacity Development of stakeholder's, prevention and mitigation and the response mechanism. The Committee also recommends that efforts must be made in the right earnest to ensure that the mitigation and prevention of disaster are given adequate importance by utilizing these funds so that the impact of the disasters is minimized. (para 7.15.4)

Action Taken

2.8.1 The SDRF and NDRF are based on the award of the Thirteenth Finance Commission which was set up under Article 281 of the Constitution. The award is for the period of 5 years, as

such it is difficult to change it. Recently, Government has introduced flexi funds within the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to undertake mitigation/restoration activities in case of natural calamities.

Recommendation

2.9 The Committee feels that the National Disaster Mitigation Fund should be created without any delay. The Committee is of the opinion that the source of Fund and its linkage with the respective State Fund should be specified in the Act or Rules explicitly. The Committee further recommends that the guidelines with respect to utilization of National and State Mitigation Funds and identification of projects therein be prepared by the NDMA in consultation with the Planning Commission. The Committee is, however, in agreement with the observation of Task Force that as regards district level Funds, the State Government should decide whether to have response and mitigation funds or to put in place a separate mechanism for timely access to financial resources by district authorities. (para 7.15.7)

Action Taken

2.9.1 The Proposal for creation of National Disaster Mitigation Fund as per Section 47 of the National Disaster Management Authority Act, 2005 was under consideration in consultation with NDMA. However, since provision of 10% Flexi fund within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to be utilized *inter alia* for mitigation/restoration activities in the event of natural calamities in the Sectors covered by Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been made, a separate Mitigation Fund may not be required.

CHAPTER - III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation

3.1 The Committee underlines the pivotal role of NDMA in laying down policies of disaster management and finalization of national plan besides coordinating the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plan for disaster management. The Committee also takes into consideration the observation of Task Force for enlarging the role of NDMA and observes that the NDMA should be provided with suitable logistic and HR support to carry out its functions in case the Government decides in favour of enlarging its role and responsibility. The Committee understands that finalization of National Disaster Management Plan may take some time. But there should not be undue delay in finalizing the Plan and steps may be taken for its early finalisation. (para 2.3.7)

Action Taken

3.1.1 NDMA has been provided regular staff consisting of Secretary, Advisors/Joint Secretaries, Joint Advisors/Directors and Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Senior Research Officers, Section Officers, Assistants, Personal Private Secretaries, Personal Assistants, etc. Besides this, NDMA is also having Domain Specialists and Consultants. As such there is no shortage of staff. As far as National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) is concerned, it is informed that National Plan has been prepared by National Executive Committee (NEC) and forwarded to NDMA for its approval. However, approval of NDMA is still awaited.

Further Observation

3.1.2 **The Committee does not buy the contention of the Government keeping in mind vacancies of the Vice Chairman and other members of the Authority. The Constitution of the Authority is still pending with vacancies for more than eight months. The Committee feels that the country can ill afford indecisiveness at the apex level in the matter of disaster management. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the posts of the vice chairman and other members should be filled without further delay. The Committee also apprehends that the approval of the National Disaster Management Plan may get stuck in the newly constituted NDMA as the new incumbents must be needing time to go through and understand it. The Committee, therefore, directs that the National Disaster Management Plan, as prepared by NEC (National Executive Council) and which is under consideration of NDMA be cleared at the earliest so that the same is implemented throughout the country for better disaster management without much delay.**

Recommendation

3.2 In view of the Committee, the National Disaster Management Guidelines are guiding documents which provide compiled information/action points to the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, State Governments/Union Territories and other stakeholders and it would just be voluminous paper work, if there is no feedback on putting those guidelines/action points in practice. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a mechanism should be placed in the NDMA to address this shortcoming and to encourage all stakeholders to strive for effective implementation of those guidelines as per their availability of resources and the feasibility of implementation etc. (para 2.4.3)

Action Taken

3.2.1 The guidelines of NDMA are not mandatory in nature and depend on the decisions of the concerned State Government on whether to follow these guidelines or make their own policies or programmes as per the availability of resources and the feasibility of its implementation. This is consistent with the existing State laws and the framework of governance. This is an ongoing process. NDMA, however, has held discussions with Central Government/Organizations and States for, *inter-alia*, compliance with Disaster Management Guidelines released by NDMA.

3.2.2 The Ministries/Departments/Organizations reviewed by the Authority are:-

Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & fishery, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation, Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Chemical & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Department of Pharmaceuticals, Department of Agricultural Research & Education, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Department of Land Resources, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Earth Science, Department of Space, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Atomic Energy.

3.2.3 Discussion with the State Governments of Nagaland, West Bengal, Manipur, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh have been held. Discussions with other States have been planned in near future.

Further Observation

3.2.4 **The Committee finds the views offered by the Government somewhat confusing as in case guidelines of NDMA are not mandatory then there is no point in having meetings with the State Governments for its compliance. In view of the Committee the guidelines of a authority of apex level should have some sanctity befitting its status. The Committee also understands that National Disaster Management Guidelines are to be implemented subject to availability of resources in the hands of State Governments/Union Territories and other stakeholders and the feasibility of implementation etc. However, keeping in view the guiding documents for preparedness, preventive and mitigation activities against any disaster, the**

Central Government must make all out efforts to persuade all stakeholders for effective implementation of those guidelines.

Recommendation

3.3 The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure over the Government's State of affairs pertaining to approval and execution of projects entrusted to NDMA. Out of ten projects which were identified during Eleventh five year plan, four are yet to be approved and one project *i.e.* National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project has been approved as late as on 5th April, 2013. Out of the remaining five projects which were sanctioned during Eleventh Five Years Plan, only one project *viz.* Micro-zonation of major cities has been completed and the remaining four are still under various stages of implementation. This is sorry status of working of NDMA which has been mandated to perform functions relating to disaster management. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the administrative ministry must monitor the functioning of NDMA. (para 2.8.6)

Action Taken

3.3.1 During Eleventh Plan, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the following schemes were proposed by NDMA:-

- (i) National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) Phase-I.
- (ii) National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project (NERMP).
- (iii) National Landslide Risk Mitigation Project (NLRMP).
- (iv) National Flood Risk Mitigation Project (NFRMP).
- (v) National School Safety Project (NSSP).
- (vi) National Disaster Communication Network (NDCN).

3.3.2 After due deliberations in the Ministry and discussions with NDMA officers, NCRMP-phase-I (with World Bank Assistance) and School Safety Programme were approved by the Government. The NERMP was approved in Twelfth Plan based on revised proposal submitted by NDMA. In addition, NDMA under its delegated powers has sanctioned another two projects namely National Disaster Management Service (NDMS) and Decision Support System (DSS) for incident response for handling nuclear off site emergency schemes, during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. NDMA has also informed that four studies such as Brahmaputra River Erosion Study, Preparation of Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Map of India (PASA), Psychological support of for survivors and families of victims of Mangalore air crash, Vulnerability Building Types which were started during Eleventh Five Year Plan have been completed.

3.3.3 Remaining proposals, on NDCN, NLRMP and NFRMP have not been considered fit for approval.

Further Recommendation

3.3.4 **The Committee notes the evasive reply and is dismayed to observe that instead of being specific on the issue of approval and implementation as well as completion of**

the projects, the Government is trying to beat around the bushes. The Committee reiterates its recommendation and desires that the performance of NDMA should be monitored at the apex level.

Recommendation

3.4 The Committee understands that the mandate of NDMA is not only confined to requesting the stakeholders *i.e.* the concerned Ministries/Departments and the State Governments to incorporate into its programmes the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme but also to ensure the implementation of DRR of the concerned projects of stakeholders. NDMA should review the projects undertaken by stakeholders to ensure that DRR is inbuilt in all schemes of Government of India and State Governments. NDMA should perform the task assigned to it by the Cabinet, *i.e.* to review all major national projects to include structural requirements for disaster reduction. (para 2.10.4)

Action Taken

3.4.1 The Government of India has adopted mitigation and prevention as essential components of their development strategy. The mainstreaming of DRR into the Developmental Plans is an important mandate of the DM Act,2005. The importance of in-built disaster management into ongoing and new development plans has been envisaged in the National Policy. It has been made mandatory that each project (plan and non-plan) in a natural hazard prone area will have to include disaster prevention/mitigation as a pre-condition and that the project document has to address those conditions.

3.4.2 In support of the DRR mainstreaming process, the relevant Ministries/Departments *viz.* Urban Development, Rural Development, Agriculture & Cooperation, Human Resources Development, Health & Family Welfare, Drinking Water & Sanitation and Environment & Forest have been asked to take initiatives for DRR mainstreaming in the development plans.

3.4.3 The Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines for 10 % Flexi-funds within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to be utilized for innovation, disaster mitigation and restoration activities in the event of natural calamities in the sectors covered by the CSS. The States/UTs have been requested to take necessary steps to make effective use of flexi-funds for disaster mitigation and for restoration in different sectors.

Further Observation

3.4.4 The Committee is of the considered view that effective mainstreaming of DRR into the development strategy/plan would lead to achievement of target of National Policy and better disaster management. The Committee during its visit to Visakhapatnam in connection with on the spot study of relief and rehabilitation schemes in the aftermath of Hudhud cyclone, came to know about the absence of this provision in the Developmental projects and it seemed that the State Government was unaware of such provisions. The Committee, therefore, recommends that monitoring mechanism may be evolved to ensure mandatory and strict compliance of guidelines of the Ministry of Finance regarding actual utilization of 10% flexi funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

Recommendation

3.5 The Committee in this context recommends that NDMA should not procrastinate infilling up of vacant posts. The number of vacant posts should not be allowed to increase beyond a point. There should be a constant effort to fill up vacancies. (para 2.11.4)

Action Taken

3.5.1 At present, all the critical posts except those of Financial Advisor and Advisor Operation are filled up. Action has been taken to fill these 2 posts and it is expected that these posts will be filled very soon. In brief, out of 123 sanctioned posts 59 are vacant. A large number of vacant posts are coterminous in nature and have been kept vacant due to, *e.g.*, resignation of Vice Chairman and Members. As soon as the Members are appointed, these vacancies will be filled.

Further Observation

3.5.2 The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that the critical posts in NDMA like those of Financial Advisor and Advisor Operation are vacant and Vice Chairman and some Members are yet to be appointed, therefore, the Committee wonders as to how the system in NDMA is functioning though it has so much vital role to play and responsibility to discharge. The Committee therefore recommends that all the vacant posts should be filled up without further delay.

Recommendation

3.6 The Committee, keeping in view the paramount role of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in disaster management, recommends that due consideration must be paid to evolve mechanism to strengthen SDRF. All the States/UTs that have not yet set up SDRFs may be insisted upon the need to set up the same at the earliest. (para 2.22.2)

Action Taken

3.6.1 As per para 3.4.5 of National Policy on Disaster Management, every State/UT is supposed to raise SDRF from its own resources. Though National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has ten battalions which are placed in various places of the country, there may be some time lag between the occurrence of the disaster and the time of arrival of NDRF personnel at the site. It could be reduced considerably, if the State(s)/UT(s) have their own contingents of SDRF stationed at the important locations. Further, it has been observed that the number of disasters are increasing over the last decade and raising of a specialist disaster response force in the State can effectively contain damages during the disaster.

3.6.2 From the past experiences including the recent very severe cyclone 'Phailin', which had struck Odisha in the month of October 2013, it has been experienced that existence of SDRF in a State immensely helps the State Government in dealing with the pre and post disaster situations.

3.6.3 If the State Governments are able to earmark or convert State Armed Police Forces (including India Reserve Battalions) into SDRF, the training requirement of SDRF can be

fulfilled by National Disaster Response Force and Central Armed Paramilitary Forces training institutes.

3.6.4 Therefore, State Disaster Response Forces need to be created, equipped and trained by the State Governments, so that they can play an effective role during disaster response. NDRF can help in the training of the personnel. The Ministry of Home Affairs is pursuing with the State Governments and UTs to raise their own Disaster Response Forces vide letter dated 30th December 2013. The issue was also discussed during the Relief Commissioner's Conference held on 27th May 2014 and those States and UTs which have so far not done so were impressed upon to raise their own SDRFs.

Further Observation

3.6.5 **The Committee desires that the Ministry of Home Affairs may highlight and share with other States the effective combating of the very severe cyclone 'Phailin', which had struck Odisha in the month of October 2013, to make them understand that existence of SDRF in a State would immensely help the State Government in dealing with the pre and post disaster situations. The Committee in this regard would also like to observe that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has raised only one battalion of SDRF, which is quite not enough in view of the frequency of cyclones being faced by the State annually. The Committee therefore emphasizes that the MHA should persuade every State/UT Government to raise sufficient SDRF from its own resources. The Committee underlines that State Disaster Response Forces need to be created, equipped and trained by the State Governments, so that they can play an effective role during disaster response. The Committee further recommends that NDRF and CAPF must be entrusted with the responsibility of extending training to the SDRF personnel.**

Recommendation

3.7 The Committee is of the view that National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) should act as centre for excellence so far as the capacity building for effective disaster management is concerned. The Committee is in agreement with the observation of the Task Force that NIDM should function as an autonomous body in respect of its entrusted activities and human resource practice and not as a subordinate organisation of either NDMA or MHA. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) can, however, have linkages with NIDM for capacity building and other activities. Action may be taken in this direction. (para 2.23.6)

Action Taken

3.7.1 This is one of the recommendations of Task Force to make NIDM as an autonomous body. NIDM is already a grantee institution and functioning like an autonomous body except that it has to function under the broad policies of NDMA. This recommendation of the Committee is already under consideration as the Task Force has also recommended the same.

Further Observation

3.7.2 The Committee, while taking note of the fact that National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is functioning as an autonomous body under the broad policies of NDMA, reiterates its recommendation that NIDM must be duti-bound to act as centre for excellence so far as the capacity building for effective disaster management is concerned. The Government may also consider making NIDM institute of national importance.

Recommendation

3.8 The Committee understands that disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness are the most important aspects that are to be given attention in achieving the goals and objectives of vulnerability reduction. The Committee strongly believes that mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Development Strategy would go a long way in disaster management in the country and overall economic growth. (para 3.6.2)

Action Taken

3.8.1 Government of India has adopted mitigation and prevention as essential components of their development strategy. Mainstreaming DRR into the Developmental Plans is an important mandate of the DM Act, 2005. Importance of in-built disaster management into ongoing and new development plans has been envisaged in the National Policy. It has been made mandatory that each project (plan and non-plan) in a natural hazard prone area will have to include disaster prevention/mitigation as a pre-condition and the project document has to address those conditions.

3.8.2 The Ministry of Finance has issued guidelines for 10% Flexi-funds within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to be utilized for innovation, disaster mitigation and restoration activities in the event of natural calamities in the sectors covered by the CSS. The States/UTs have been requested to take necessary steps to make effective use of flexi-funds for disaster mitigation and for restoration in different sectors.

Further Observation

3.8.3 The Committee notes the reply but feels that the laudable initiative has not gathered momentum and there is. lack of response or knowledge on the part of State Governments. The Committee desires that provisions of 10% flexi-funds should be made popular among the State Governments. The Ministry may discuss with all the States.

Recommendation

3.9 The Committee agrees with the recommendation of Task Force that the selection of members of NDMA should be through an open and transparent process and for that purpose a Search and Selection Committee may be constituted. The Committee is also in agreement with the views of the Task Force that the tenure and age limit of the Members should be specified in the DM Act, 2005 as has been prescribed in other Acts such as those relating to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, the Election Commission, the Competition

Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission etc. The Committee, however, is in agreement with the views of NDMA that keeping in view the recommendation of the Task Force for enlarging the role of NDMA and with the frequency of occurrence of new types of disasters in the country, any reduction in the number of full time Members of the NDMA would make NDMA handicapped in the performance of its functions and accomplishing its responsibilities. The Committee is, therefore, not in agreement with the recommendation of Task Force in this regard. (para 2.3.11)

Action Taken

3.9.1 As per Disaster Management Act, it is the privilege of Prime Minister to nominate Members of NDMA and determine the number of Members, their pay structure and status. The recommendations of Task Force are being processed on these lines to retain the primacy of the Prime Minister. .

Further Recommendation

3.9.2 The Committee wonders as to why not the tenure and age limit of the Members should be specified in the DM Act, as has been prescribed in other Acts such as those relating to the Central Regulatory Commission, the Election Commission, the Competition Commission and the National Human Rights Commission, etc. After all, appointments in those bodies are also made with the approval of Prime Minister and such prerogative is not subject to any challenge. The Committee is of the firm opinion that discretion should not, by any stretch of imagination, give suspicion in any mind. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation that the selection of members of NDMA should be through an open and transparent process and for the purpose a Search and Selection Committee may be constituted.

Recommendation

3.10 The Committee is not happy to note that Advisory Committee which ceased to exist from mid of June, 2010 had not been re-constituted till 2013. The Committee understands that Advisory Committee is a significant organ of NDMA consisting of experts in the field of disaster management and having practical experience of disaster management at the national, State or district level to make recommendations on different aspects of disaster management but unfortunately such significant Committee has not been reconstituted since 2010. The Committee takes serious exception to this inordinate delay and wants to convey its strong feeling in this regard. The Committee strongly recommends that the advisory Committee be constituted without further delay. (para 2.7.3)

Action Taken

3.10.1 The issue relating re-constitution of Advisory Committee of NDMA has been drawing the attention of the Government and from time to time it has been advising NDMA about the need of re-constitution of the Committee at the earliest. However, it is to inform that at present most of the positions of members in NDMA are vacant. Once all the members are appointed, the advisory committee of NDMA will be re-constituted.

Further Recommendation

3.10.2 The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure over the prevailing state of affairs pertaining to composition and functioning of NDMA wherein many posts of Members are vacant since long and the issue relating to re-constitution of Advisory Committee of NDMA is hanging fire since June, 2010. The Committee understands that such modus operandi of NDMA would be unacceptable to any Government of the democratic country where disasters visit so frequently and so vigorously. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that vacant posts of Members in NDMA be filled up without further delay and Advisory Committee of NDMA be reconstituted, sooner the better for effective functioning of NDMA.

Recommendation

3.11 The Committee is in agreement with the observation of C&AG that the action by NDMA is lacking as has been mandated under the DM Act for recommending provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation and relief in repayment of loans or for grant of fresh loans to the persons affected by disasters. The contention of NDMA that no affected State has sought NDMA's intervention in the matter is in contrast with the expected level of activism on the part of an institution at apex level. The Committee believes that once the Act mandates NDMA to perform certain functions, it would be inappropriate to await the request of the State Government for the intervention of NDMA particularly when the State is reeling under the disaster effect. The Committee feels that NDMA should intervene in the matter *suo-moto* and act promptly in case of occurrence of any disaster in the State. The Committee recommends that NDMA should be more proactive as mandated by the Act. NDMA must also undertake follow up action to observe as to what extent its recommendations have been complied with. (para 2.9.4)

Action Taken

3.11.1 The Reserve Bank of India being the Principal Regulating Agency of the Government of India for monetary policy, had issued guidelines in 1984 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks to take necessary action for providing relief to the persons affected by the disasters. These guidelines were updated regularly. The banks are guided by these guidelines and as such, NDMA had not initiated any action for recommending relief in the repayment of loans or for grant for fresh loans to the persons affected by the disasters.

Further Recommendation

3.11.2 The Committee observes that relief to the persons affected by the disaster must be immediate as well as comprehensive so that affected persons are solaced immediately and economic status of the affected state can be brought back on a better developmental track. The Committee in this regard, recommends that the role of banks in implementation of relief programme and long term reconstruction plan must be prompt and pro-active and sympathetic while fixing terms of loan interest and period of repayment of loan and grant for fresh loan. The Committee also feels that the provision mandating NDMA for recommending allocation of funds for the purpose of mitigation

and relief in repayment to loans or for grant of fresh loans to the affected persons by disasters may be incorporated in the DM Act.

Recommendation

3.12 The Committee believes that as mandated by the Disaster Management Act 2005, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) chaired by the respective District Collectors and co-chaired by the chairmen of the Zilla Parishads at the district level have been established. However, in many cases, these are not active and operational except a few exceptions. Similarly, even though the Disaster Management Act 2005 stipulates the setting up of the Disaster Response Fund and the Disaster Mitigation Fund at national, State and district levels, only the National and State Disaster Response Funds have become operational till now. The Committee therefore desires that the provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005 should be enforced in letter and spirit in view of the increasing frequency of disasters in the country and resultant damage to property, assets and infrastructure caused by them. (para 2.20.7)

Action Taken

3.12.1 The SDRF and NDRF are based on the award of the Thirteenth Finance Commission which was set up under Article 281 of the Constitution. The award is for the period of 5 years, as such it is difficult to change it.

3.12.2 The proposal for creation of National Disaster Mitigation Fund as per Section 47 of the Disaster Management Authority Act, 2005 was under consideration in consultation with NDMA. However, since a provision of 10% Flexi fund within the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to be utilized *inter alia* for mitigation/restoration activities in the event of natural calamities in the Sectors covered by Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been made, a separate Mitigation Fund may not be required.

Further Recommendation

3.12.3 The Committee is of the considered view that since district administration is the first responder to any disaster, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) must be well equipped as per the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Financial assistance at the nick of time is required in the event of any disaster and, therefore, it cannot wait assessment of damage and releasing time of adequate fund either from Central Government or State Government. Therefore, on the spot financial management at the district level is a must to meet immediate requirement of fund. The Committee also notes that with regard to the Disaster Response Fund and the Disaster Mitigation Fund at national, State and district levels as stipulated under the DM Act, only the National and State Disaster Response Fund have become operational till now and with the provision of 10% Flexi-funds under CSS, the Government is of the view that funds for other purposes may not be required. The Committee is not in agreement with the views of the Government as the concept of flexi-funds may not have legal sanctity and it has other aspects under its coverage, disaster mitigation as one of them.

Recommendation

3.13 The Committee understands that Home Guards play pivotal role as an auxiliary to the police, serve as an auxiliary to the police in the maintenance of law and order, internal security and help the community in any kind of emergency such as air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Home Guard should be given due training in the disaster management and their service conditions should also be improved in order to motivate them in the service of the nation. (para 2.27.3)

Action Taken

3.13.1 Home Guards is a voluntary organization which functions under the administrative control of the State Governments and role of Central Government is limited to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the States oraising, equipping and training the Home Guards.

Further Recommendation

3.13.2 Though Home Guards function under the administrative control of State Governments, nevertheless, Central Government must prepare plan and effective guidelines which should be adopted by States for raising, equipping and training of the Home Guards.

Recommendation

3.14 The Committee takes into account the fact that in the incidents of the disasters of similar magnitude in USA and Japan, the loss of lives is much less as compared to that in India. The Committee, therefore, observes that prevention and mitigation should contribute to the lasting improvement in evolving safety and the same should be integrated in the disaster management. (para 3.6.3)

Action Taken

3.14.1 After India faced the two major disasters *viz.* Odisha Cyclone in 1999 and the Bhuj Earthquake in 2001, the approach towards disaster management has been significantly changed from response centric reactive approach to a holistic proactive approach comprising of all the segments of disaster management like prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, relief, rehabilitation etc. Recently, when very serious cyclonic storms Phailin and Hudhud had a land fall in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, the country has demonstrated the effectiveness and importance of the preparedness, immense use of advance warning and the need for coordinated efforts in disaster management.

Further Recommendation

3.14.2 The Committee is of the strong view that holistic approach to disaster management *viz.* paradigm shift from response centric reactive approach to prevention, preparedness and mitigation must entail capacity and resilience to withstand the potential damage of disaster so far safety of lives and protection of property is concerned. That is possible only when preparedness to prevention and mitigation is

strengthened at the ground level. But the Committee is pained to observe that adhocism is being used so far as implementation of policies and statutory provisions is concerned. The Committee wishes to draw attention of the Government to the issues like non existence of DDMA's, except in some States, non provisioning of operationalisation of Disaster Response Funds at national and State level, Constitution of SDRF as stand alone Force on the line of NDRF by all States, institutionalization of Disaster management at PRI/ULB level, strengthening of EOCs at State, District, Sub-Division and Revenue Circle level, non maintenance of the Cyclone Shelters and poor maintenance of early warning systems in vulnerable areas in the States as well as no proper establishment & maintenance of EOCs at district level. The Committee desires that these issues are addressed without any failure.

Recommendation

3.15 From the disasters, the Committee noticed that the loss of life and property due to disasters is mainly due to poor quality of construction of houses and buildings and lack of knowledge and training about managing disasters. The Committee strongly feels that these aspects need to be kept in mind. (para 3.6.4)

Action Taken

3.15.1 The Ministry of Home Affairs had been pursuing with the Ministry of Urban Development for bringing in amendments in building bye-laws, land use zoning regulations, development controlled regulations, town and Country Planning Acts in various States to ensure structural safety against natural hazards and to strengthen the mechanisms for their compliance. As a result, most of the States have amended the building bye-laws. During the First session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May, 2013 there was a session on 'Making Our City Safe' which emphasized the need for enforcing techno legal regime.

Further Recommendation

3.15.2 **The Committee is of the considered opinion that the loss of life and property due to disaster can be prevented and mitigated by enforcing techno legal regime on the ground level. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Government must undertake concerted efforts for implementation of building bye-laws, land use zoning regulations, development controlled regulations, town and Country Planning laws in various States to ensure structural safety against natural hazards and to strengthen the mechanisms for their compliance for better disaster management. The Committee in this background recommends that the decisions taken in the First session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May, 2013 in which there was a session on 'Making Our City Safe', must be implemented in letter and spirit.**

Recommendation

3.16 The Committee takes notes of the following shortcomings in Disaster Management set-up in the State and recommends that suitable course of action may be undertaken to overcome the following issues/shortcomings:-

- (i) Non maintenance of the Cyclone Shelters and poor maintenance of early Warning systems in vulnerable area in the State;
 - (ii) No proper establishment & maintenance of EOCs at district level;
 - (iii) Lack of coordination between departments and non Government organizations;
 - (iv) Low level of awareness among the community and the departments;
 - (v) Poor Drainage maintenance at urban level;
 - (vi) Encroachments all along the drainages are the main reason for disasters; and
 - (vii) Absence of building bylaws to construct Earthquake resistance structures.
- (para 4.2.4)

Action Taken

3.16.1 The shortcomings pointed out by the committee relates to Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has been advised to take suitable measures to overcome the weakness in the system.

Further Recommendation

3.16.2 The colossal devastation caused by the recent cyclone Huhud in Vishakhapatnam is a testimony to the truth to inherent weaknesses in Disaster Management set up in Andhra Pradesh which has been highlighted by the Committee in Para 4.2.4 of its 178th Report. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that Union Ministry of Home Affairs must monitor to ensure that all the State Governments undertakes suitable measures to overcome the weaknesses in the system.

Recommendation

3.17 The Committee, however, notes that DRM programme has been very successful in rural areas, but it has not achieved the success as a grassroots programme in urban areas. The Committee therefore, desires that mitigation aspect in urban areas needs to be addressed in letter and spirit while projects are conceived and implemented. (Para 4.4.4)

Action Taken

3.17.1 The Gol-UNDP programme (2013-2017) -'Enhancing Institutional and Community Resilience to disasters and climate change' is under implementation in the States. Reducing disaster risk in urban areas by enhancing institutional capacities and to integrate climate risk reduction measures in development programs and enhancing community capacities to manage disasters and climate risk in urban areas are the major objectives.

Further Recommendation

3.17.2 The Committee recommends for mid-term evaluation of the implementation of Government of India- UNDP Programme (2013-2017)- enhancing institutional and

community resilience to disaster and climate change. The Government should now evaluate the achievement of institutional capacities and climate risk reduction measures to assess as to how much the same have been integrated to development programs in urban areas as against the set target/objective and also to find out scope for improvement for better implementation.

Recommendation

3.18 The Committee is in agreement of the suggestion of State Government that Role of Relief Commissioner maybe defined in the Act; Involvement of Secretaries of line Departments in State Executive Committee; Formalization of functions of SDMA and encouraging participation of elected representative at District level and other District level officers to participate in DM activities. The State has also indicated several other inadequacies and made other suggestions. The Ministry of Home Affairs may look into all the suggestions and take appropriate action. (para 4.8.8)

Action Taken

3.18.1 As stated in response to earlier questions that the Task Force which was set up to review the Disaster Management Act, 2005 has recommended several amendments in the Disaster Management Act. The report of the Task Force is still under consideration of the Government.

Further Recommendation

3.18.2 The committee is constrained to express its displeasure that Government is procrastinating in considering the recommendation of the Task Force which are of pivotal importance for better disaster management. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that Government must consider the suggestions of Task Force in time bound manner so that appropriate action is taken well within time.

Recommendation

3.19 The Committee is in agreement with the observations of the Ministry of Home Affairs and recommends that Central Government as well as the State Government should chalk out specific strategy with the objective to make the Disaster Management set-up more resilient and effective. (para 4.13.5)

3.19.1 The State Government suggested that concrete steps were required to be taken for further strengthening of DM mechanism in the State which *inter-alia* includes mainstreaming Disaster Management with Development plans & programmes, strengthening techno legal regime in the State, retrofitting measures for lifeline buildings, schools & Health facilities, strengthening and equipping DCs at State, District, Sub-Divisional levels, hazard specific strategic planning by all concerned departments, resource mobilization and mass awareness drive, continuity in training and capacity building activities for the stakeholders & volunteers etc. and greater involvement of the PRIs, knowledge networking with expert institutions/ organizations in the areas of disaster risk reduction and better monitoring and evaluation of development/infrastructure projects and putting in place an integrated response mechanism. The Committee desires that the State Government must take necessary steps to complete all the

above tasks. Union Ministry of Home Affairs may also render necessary assistance to the State in this regard. (para 4.13.7)

3.19.2 The Committee also feels that setting up of a State of the Art Institute of Disaster Management would facilitate in carrying out need based training and capacity building activities in the State. (para 4.13.8)

Action Takep

3.19.3 The State Government of Assam has been requested to chalk out specific strategy for the State with the objective to make the Disaster Management set up more resilient and effective. Regarding setting up of an institute for disaster management, this is to inform that faculty members of the NIDM as well as officials of NDMA are visiting the State frequently for developing the capacity of the people of Assam in the field of disaster management.

Further Recommendation

3.19.4 The Committee reiterates its suggestion that in order to make the Disaster Management set up more resilient and effective in the Assam, the State Government must chalk out hazard specific strategic planning and encourage greater involvement of DDMA/PRI's and skill networking with expert institution for better disaster risk reduction. The Committee further reiterates its recommendation that Government must reconsider setting up of a state of the art institute of Disaster Management in Assam for carrying out need based training and capacity building activities in the State for NER.

Recommendation

3.20 The Committee observes that SDMA and DDMA's have been set up in the State. However, Disaster Management set up in the State needs further strengthening through various measures like institutionalization of DM at PRI's/ULB level, strengthening of EOC's at State, District, Sub-Division and Revenue Circle Level. A State wise smooth communication system is also required to be put in place. Sufficient SDRF battalions need to be created to reach the affected corners of the State quickly. (para 4.13.6)

Action Taken

3.20.1 Government of India through NDMA would continue its advocacy with the State(s) to constitute State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) as a standalone Force on the line of NDRF at the earliest, and also for institutionalization of Disaster management at PRI/ULB level and for strengthening of EOC's at State, District, Sub-Division and Revenue Circle level.

Further Recommendation

3.20.2 The replies of the Ministry in response to the Committee's recommendation are very general and vague, therefore, the Committee desires that Ministry of Home Affairs must furnish' state specific steps taken for strengthening and institutionalization of Disaster Management at the ground level.

Recommendation

3.21 The Committee recommends that sanction of 36 posts for making the establishment of Directorate of Disaster Management fully functional should be accorded at the earliest. Demand of better communication support between islands in view of their topography as well as transport vehicles is justified and should be looked into on priority basis. The Committee took into account the observation of the MHA that on the basis of the formula worked out on pro rate basis by the DM division, a proposal has been sent by the UT Division of MHA to Ministry of Finance for establishing the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the UTs which is under active consideration in that Ministry. If the approval of the Ministry of Finance has been received, a separate SDRF for each UT may be created. The Committee desires that MHA should undertake requisite follow up action if the approval has not yet been received from Ministry of Finance. (para 4.22.6)

Action Taken

3.21.1 M/o Finance has approved the allocation of ₹ 50.00 crore under SDRF for creation of Disaster Response Fund for UTs. Allocation to each UT is as follows:

(i)	A&N Admn	—	₹ 10.00 crore
(ii)	Chandigarh	—	₹ 5.00 crore
(iii)	D&N Haveli	—	₹ 5.00 crore
(iv)	Daman & Diu	—	₹ 5.00 crore
(v)	Lakshadweep	—	₹ 10.00 crore
(vi)	NCT of Delhi	—	₹ 5.00 crore
(vi)	Puducherry	—	₹ 10.00 crore

3.21.2 The matter was referred to the M/o Finance to provide financial assistance as mentioned above to UTs also, as per the procedure adopted in case of States *i.e.* direct management and administration by the M/o Finance (Under Demand No. 36, Major Head-3601).

3.21.3 The Ministry of Finance has advised that the requirement may be taken up during the preparation of budget for the next year. The revised proposal has already been sent to the M/o Finance and it is under consideration with them.

3.21.4 As there is a blanket ban on creation of posts, no decision could be taken so far on creation of posts.

Further Recommendation

3.21.5 **The Committee is not in agreement with the imposition of a blanket ban on creation of posts which is urgently required for making the establishment of Disaster Management fully functional and is of the view that sanction for posts should be accorded at the earliest. The Demand of better communication support between islands in view of their topography as well as transport vehicles appears to be justified and should be looked into on priority basis. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends**

that Ministry of Finance must appreciate the requirements of UTs and consider the proposal of UT division of Ministry of Home Affairs, positively.

Recommendation

3.22 The Committee feels that the UT's request for funds for setting up of the Disaster Cell as well as technical guidance to prepare disaster plan need to be addressed. For strengthening of disaster management set up, UT needs capacity building of DM among the public, public awareness, improved use of technology and social family activities. An early action may be taken in this regard. (para 4.25.3)

Action Taken

3.22.1 The prime need of the Union Territory of Daman & Diu is setting up of Disaster Management Cell in the UT. As it involves creation of posts, no decision has been taken till now.

Further Recommendation

3.22.2 The Committee observes that since setting up of Disaster Management cell in the UT of Daman & Diu involves creation of posts implying financial requirement, therefore, Central Government must look into the matter without much delay and guide the UT for setting up/strengthening of disaster management set up and creating public awareness towards capacity building of disaster management.

Recommendation

3.23 The Committee observes that proposals for the formation of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in UTs are pending in the Ministry of Finance. The Committee desires that MHA should actively take up the follow up action with that Ministry for considering the proposals, if not cleared as yet. The Committee further notes that at present there is no staff provided for the Disaster Management Directorate and the same is managed with the staff of Revenue Department. There is also further need to strengthen the existing control room with adequate staff and with most modern equipments. The Committee recommends that Ministry of Home Affairs should examine all these issues. (para 4.26.2)

Action Taken

3.23.1 The Union Territory of Lakshadweep is having a Disaster Management Cell at the Head Quarter and other Islands. The Disaster Management Plans have been updated and capacity building is being done continuously with the help of NDMA and NIDM. The identified personnel of the Union Territory are trained by NDRF and they are arranging Island wise various capacity building programme in the Union Territory.

Further Recommendation

3.23.2 The Committee notes the reply and observes that the reply is silent on the core issue of the recommendations which concerns with the proposal of setting up of disaster

response force in the UT of Lakshadweep. It seems that the proposal is still pending with the Ministry of Finance. If it is so the Committee recommends that the proposal should be approved without any further delay.

Recommendation

3.24 The Committee takes a serious view that after lapse of three months of the tragedy, formalities were still to be completed for giving the relief announced by the concerned authorities. The categorical statement given by the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand that all those people, who are missing for one month, will be presumed to be dead, showed the sincere empathy of the State Government for the victims. However this seems to be evaporating when much time is taken for giving compensation. The Committee feels that the Government is not doing justice to the families of those whose members are missing. The Committee views that there must have been some other methods to accomplish the task. The Committee strongly recommends that the assurance given by the Home Secretary as well as the State Government officials for completing formalities for compensation should be met and compensation should be given at the earliest. (para 6.6.4)

Action Taken

3.24.1 As soon as the guideline was issued by the Registrar of death & birth to issue death certificates to Next of Kin (NOK) of the missing persons, issuance of death certificates and distribution of compensation to NOK of missing in Uttarakhand disaster, 2013 is being done on war footing. Out of 3,178 missing persons from other States, death certificates and *ex-gratia* relief have been provided to next of kin of 2,741 persons.

Further Recommendation

3.24.2 The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that out of 3,178 missing persons from the other states 437 next of kin (NoK) of missing persons are still to be compensated in the aftermath of the disaster in Uttarakhand even after elapse of one and half year despite the assurance of State Government and Union Home Secretary for completing formalities for compensation without much delay. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that State Government should immediately act upon the recommendation of the Committee to ensure timely compensation to NoK of missing persons without causing than further delay.

Recommendation

3.25 The Committee feels that the Ministry of Home Affairs should play a proactive role to ensure that all insurance claims of the victims of Uttarakhand disaster are expedited. For this purpose, a nodal officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs may be appointed to take care of such insurance claims of life and property and also to liaise with Ministry of Finance. (para 6.6.6)

Action Taken

3.25.1 For settlement of insurance claim, the RGI has already circulated a detailed guideline for declaring the missing persons as dead. The death certificates have been issued to the

missing persons. The Department of Financial Services has issued instructions to the insurance companies for settlement of claims based on these death certificates.

Further Recommendation

3.25.2 The Committee observes that the Ministry of Home Affairs in response to recommendation contained in Para 6.6.4 apprised the Committee that out of 3,178 missing persons from other States, death certificates and *ex-gratia* relief have been provided to next to kin of 2,761 person only. The Committee, therefore, desires that the State Government should check and clarify the fact so that all assurance claims of life and property are settled fully at the earliest.

Recommendation

3.26 The Committee understands that it is difficult for local people from remote village to procure building materials *viz.* cement, steel, wood etc. Therefore, the Committee desires that the District authorities should provide cement and other construction material at subsidized rates. The Committee wishes to drive home the need to give proper attention on the construction activities in Uttarakhand at reasonable prices at this critical hour. Since people are opting for owner-driven building of houses, efforts should be made to ensure that the plan of the building and the structure is earthquake-resistant. Therefore, while approving the construction plans, care should be taken to ensure that every building design is earthquake-resistant and every house so constructed is insured for, at least, 15 years through the insurance companies. (para 6.10.4)

Action Taken

3.26.1 A Project Management Unit and several project implementation units have been constituted to ensure speedy implementation of various rehabilitation and reconstruction works in Uttarakhand. A dedicated Monitoring Cell has, at the same time, been constituted for monitoring the progress of these works.

3.26.2 Disaster affected families opting for Owner Driven Construction of Houses (ODCH) are being provided on-site technical know-how on earthquake safe construction. Designs and construction plans for the construction of ODCH are being provided to the owners. Provision of insurance of these houses is also being made. The first installment of ₹1.5 lakh per beneficiary has already been released for 1922 (77.75 %) beneficiaries.

Further Recommendation

3.26.3 The Committee notes that only 77.75% beneficiaries have been given first instalment of ₹1.5 lakh. The Committee is of the view that this is not a good achievement made by the State Government after lapse of a substantial period. The Committee therefore recommends that all the remaining beneficiaries should be provided their due and legitimate relief amount within three months. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this matter.

Recommendation

3.27 The Committee would like to put it on record the great work done by the Force personnel in evacuating people there and the Committee pays tribute to those 20 personnel who lost their lives while trying to rescue the general public who were stranded at various places. The Committee believes that the country will never forget the great sacrifice they have made. In regard to the network of airstrips and helipads for the entire country, with particular reference to Uttarakhand, the Committee observes that the space is very limited and the State is not able to provide air ambulance to evacuate people in case of emergency. The Committee desires that the Home Ministry may take note of this aspect and take necessary action in this regard at the earliest. There should be a good network of shelter houses with food security to the stranded population as and when calamity of such nature happens. The Committee would like to cite the example of the coastal area of the country, where community centres have been created near the coast. As and when something happens, people are immediately rushed to that place. Then community kitchens are opened and the affected people are taken care of. The Government should consider such things in Uttarakhand. (para 6.10.20)

Action Taken

3.27.1 The concern of the Committee about the space crunch in the State for Air Lifting is noted. However it is informed that 52 Helipads at different locations of the State are being constructed.

Further Observation

3.27.2 The Committee notes that the reply of the Ministry is silent on the issue of construction of shelter houses/community centres with sufficient food stock in Uttarakhand. The Committee recommends that Government should pay urgent attention to this vital issue of infrastructure.

Recommendation

3.28 The Committee feels that observations of C&AG on the working of Disaster Management set up in Uttarakhand are very serious. The Committee observes that the NDRF and the ITBP, along with other personnel of the Armed Forces, have done a commendable job in rescuing the stranded pilgrims and locals. The Committee takes note of the disaster preparedness of the State from the background note as already stated earlier. However, in the light of C&AG observations, the Committee feels that a strong and robust disaster management system is all the more necessary as Uttarakhand has a sensitive eco system which is prone to natural calamities. Though the Committee understands that the nature's fury is beyond human control, disaster preparedness can substantially reduce loss of life as can be seen in the examples of the countries of Japan and the USA which frequently face Tsunamis and Hurricanes etc. Due to complex terrain and ongoing tectonic activities, disaster management should be an integral part of the governance in the State of Uttarakhand. In this direction, the State Government must ensure effective and efficient functioning of the SDMA by convening regular meetings and monitoring follow up action of its recommendations. Immediate steps should be taken to formulate the policy guidelines, plans, rules and norms

ensuring that Disaster Management measures are incorporated in the developmental process. The Committee feels that the State Government should codify building bye-laws to ensure safe construction practices in the State and Hazard Safety Cell should be empowered suitably to carry out its functions effectively. Moreover, the State Government should provide critical infrastructure such as trauma centre, so that the affected people could be given immediate medical attention. (para 6.11.3)

Action Taken

3.28.1 The meetings of SDMA are being conducted on a regular basis for formulation of the policies, plans, norms, guidelines and rules.

3.28.2 Hazard Safety Cell (HSC) at the State Level and Hazard Safety Units (HSU) at the district level are created in the State and the process of empowering these units is in progress.

Recommendation

3.29 The Committee is also of the view that Government should take steps to prepare training modules and calendars to upgrade the skills of personnel, NGOs & communities engaged in disaster prevention and mitigation. Government should prioritize assessment of structural and non-structural safety of school buildings and identify necessary mitigative action to be included in the school safety programme. (para 6.11.4)

Action Taken

3.29.1 NIDM and NDMA are engaged in upgrading the skills of personal and communities including the NGOs. The Government of India is already implementing a pilot project on school safety which covers two schools in each District of 22 States. Under this scheme, both structural and non-structural measures are included.

Further Recommendation

3.29.2 The Committee recommends that the pilot project of Government of India on school safety should cover all schools of each district of all States and UTs. The committee further recommends that Government should undertake concrete steps for upgrading the skills of personal and communities including the NGOs.

Recommendation

3.30 The Committee was informed that implementation of environment protection laws and all other measures to preserve the eco-system was the responsibility of the State Government. However there was also a need that the situation/conditions on ground are reviewed from time to time by MoEF to effect relaxations, as required and necessary so as to reduce the risk caused by disasters. The Committee also recommends that Disaster Risk Reduction should therefore be incorporated as one of the considerations in the implementation of such laws/regulations. Crucially, a large percentage of roads in Uttarakhand are under the charge of BRO. The Committee recommends that it is right time that the alignments of the roads are reviewed in consultation with GSJ and full protection provided for the portion which are under constant

threat of landslides/or are part of the slide zones. Alternative modes of connectivity such as provision of tunnels and others must be considered. The strategic importance of the roads and their all season connectivity in Uttarakhand need not be over-emphasized. The Committee, therefore, recommends that MOD should seriously consider providing funds for this purpose. The Committee wishes to point out that separate and alternative evacuation routes/roads are also planned and developed by BRO particularly from the major pilgrim centres even though for short stretches. (para 6.11.9)

Action Taken

3.30.1 Geological Survey of India (GSI) (Nodal Agency of the landslide investigation), observing the great extent of damage to road infrastructures, village settlements and developmental projects during heavy rainfall of 16th & 17th June' 2013 in Uttarakhand', immediately undertook the spot assessment of landslides that affected the road sections (National/ State Highway and village roads) in the State. This includes the road sections being maintained by BRO in the State.

3.30.2 The rapid geological/geomorphic ground based assessment have been carried out with an objective to assess the need for rehabilitation/relocation; and identification of road stretches where realignment of road is necessary, besides preparing an exhaustive inventory of landslides.

3.30.3 GSI during field Season 2013-14 launched high investigation for preliminary slope Stability assessment of disaster affected areas including road infrastructure in five most disaster affected districts- Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh and collected base line geological information on various geo-parameters, causative factors and immediate/short term measures on all the landslides that affected the road networks in the aftermath of the disaster.

3.30.4 In Chamoli district, 65 numbers of landslides have been studied along prominent road (NH/SH) sections which includes 321 slides along kamaprayag-Joshimath- Badrinath sector (NH-58): 8 slides along Joshimath- malaria sector (BRO road section), 8 slides along Chamoli-Gepeshwar- Pokhri sector, 3 slides along kamaprayag- Simli- Gairsain sector, 14 slides along Simli-Gwaldam sector (SH-11) and one slide along Govindghat - Ghangharia-Hemkund Sahib sector (State PWD). The chronic slide zones on road alignments where detailed studies are required are at Birahi (km. 436.700), Pagal Nallah (km. 456.900), Patalganga (km. 468.200) and Lambagarh (km.504.500).

3.30.5 In Rudraprayag district where the impact of disaster was maximum, 210 line km. of road section of National/State Highway has been investigated. 40 incidences of landslides/ river bank erosion have been recorded along NH-I09: 5 km. stretch from Sonprayag to Gaurikund and 15 km. stretch between Tilwara and Banswada have been severely damaged/washed away. It has been recommended that the stretches between Tilwara and Banswada, Kund and Guptkashi, Sitapur and Sonprayag and Sonprayag to Gaurikund need to be realigned after detailed geological investigations. Slides are critical and needs further investigations for realignment of road sections. Simi village (km. 37.00), Vijaynagar (km.18.00) and Sonprayag to Gaurikund (km. 70.00 to 76.00) are chronic landslide zones, requiring detailed investigations for realignment/communication tunnel etc. The studies further revealed that the major slide

zones such as Naulapani, Silli, Semi and Kunjethi need comprehensive site specific treatment slope protection measures.

3.30.6 In Bageshwar district, however, no major slide zone has been recorded on State Highways where realignment of the road is required. The geological studies revealed that the slides/ subsidences occurring are of minor to macro scale and may be contained by applying conventional remedial measures.

3.30.7 In Pithoragarh district, being the border district most of the roads are being maintained by Border Road Organisation (BRO). Total 92 nos. of landslide/ subsidence/river bank erosion have been reported, out of which 64 are along the highways and roads affecting a cumulative stretches of about 21.7 km. The stretch at 40 locations has been recommended for realignment. At certain locations, an option of tunneling has also been suggested especially in Madkot- Serahat, Elaged and Sobla- Nyu sectors.

3.30.8 In Uttarkashi district, total nos. of 60 active landslide spots have been identified, out of which 57 landslides affect the road section (NH-108 and NH-134). The prominent locations where detailed studies of landslides are required for realignment / relocation of the road include Dharasu Bend (km.123), Sukitop, Singori, Bhatwari, Chadethi and the section between Malla to Lata on NH-108.

3.30.9 The interim reports of the above studies have already been submitted to the chief Secretary of Uttarakhand.

3.30.10 Further, during the present field session (April,2014 to May,2015) the GSI has taken up following studies:-

- (i) Detailed geological investigation of subsidence affected areas of Semi village (NH-109), Mandakini valley, and Kamera (NH-58), Alaknanda Valley, Rudraprayag district in Uttarakhand;
- (ii) Developing GIS-based, qualitative/quantitative landslide hazard and risk assessment in Mandakni Valley;
- (iii) Preparation of a 1:50,000 scale landslide susceptible map for mountaineous/ hilly region on GIS platform in parts of Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand;
- (iv) Preparation of a 1:50,000 scale landslide susceptible map for mountaineous/ hilly region on GIS platform in part of Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand.

3.30.11 GIS is in constant touch with BRO and is ready to take up any additional site specific study as and when required by them (BRO).

3.30.12 In pursuance of the decision the Medium and Long Term Rehabilitation for creation of robust infrastructure capable of withstanding the weather and other challenges will be based on the advice of Team of Experts working under the State Government/Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H). The Planning Commission has informed that they have worked out a medium and long term reconstruction package for Uttarakhand which includes a financial package of ₹7346 crore from Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Plan, Special Plan Assistance and Externally Aided Projects.

3.30.13 As per the direction from PMO and in consultation with the Army about 365 km road length is to be handed over to MoRT & H in Uttarakhand from BRO.

3.30.14 The BRO, in addition, does roads construction work as per the requirement of Army on strategic roads. For this, a collaborative measure has been initiated to establish a multi-discipline-technical expert group with experts from Ministry of Science and Technology (CRRI, CSIR, GSI etc.) to assist BRO in technical matters such as selection of alignment of roads with the help of latest technology/trial of new technologies. Accordingly, the efforts to earmark for utilizing 10% of its annual budget for pilot/trial projects of new technology by BRO are under consideration.

Further Recommendation

3.30.15 **The Committee observes that Planning Commission had worked out a medium and long term reconstruction package for Uttarakhand which includes a financial package of ₹ 7364 crore from Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Central Plan, Special Plan Assistance and Externally Added Projects. The Committee now hopes that the NITI Aayog would take cognizance of the decision of the erstwhile Planning Commission and the concerted course of action would be taken by the Central Government to ameliorate Uttarakhand from the shock of devastation and put the State back on the rail with the objective of better back.**

3.30.16 **The Committee further notes that as per the direction from PMO and in consultation with the Army about 365 km road length is to be handed over to MoRT & H in Uttarakhand from BRO. The Committee recommends that the process of handing over the road be completed at the earliest. The Committee also desires that the roads so taken from the BRO should be maintained properly by NHAI. The Committee also hopes that the services of the expert group with experts from Ministry of Science and Technology (CRRI, CSIR, GSI etc.) constituted to assist BRO in technical matters such as selection of alignment of roads with the help of latest technology/trial of new technologies will be utilized and roads of international standards as one can see in hilly regions of Europe will be constructed in Uttarakhand.**

Recommendation

3.31 The following assistance was sought by the representatives of the State Governments:-

- (i) For the rehabilitation of the damaged villages, requirement of ₹ 8000 crore may be examined and assessed.
- (ii) Highly sophisticated world class area specific warning system may be provided.
- (iii) Army, ITBP and NDRF should make recruitment of their personnel to providing employment to the jobless persons of the State also.
- (iv) Waiver of interest and loan component of various dues of the disaster affected persons.
- (v) While Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a special package of ₹ 100 crore for development of infrastructure. Special package particularly for transporters,

hoteliers and travel agents etc. who have suffered and will further face the hardships because of the disaster and decline in tourism, is required. It will be of great help if Nainital and Dehradun are developed as major Conference Centres (While Dehradun has a modern airport, Pantnagar can service Nainital). Direct flight from Dehradun to Kathmandu and back can be introduced, subject to traffic potential. (para 6.11.12)

3.31.1 The Committee recommends that the above suggestions may be considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs. (para 6.11.13)

Action Taken

3.31.2 Consequent to June, 2013 Disaster in Uttarakhand a package of ₹ 7,346 crores has been approved by the Government of India which includes a financial package of ₹ 7346 crore from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Plan, Special Plan Assistance and Externally Aided Projects. 52 Helipads are being constructed at different locations of the State.

3.31.3 The recruitment in the Army, ITBP and other Central Armed Police Forces are made in accordance with the transparent policy which takes care of the concerns expressed by the State Government.

Further Recommendation

3.31.4 The Committee strongly recommends that approved amount to the tune of ₹7,346 crore must be released to the Government of Uttarakhand within set time frame so that the State's economy is put on track without much delay by emphasizing completion of infrastructure and tourism promotion projects in time. The committee further recommends that highly sophisticated world class area specific warning system may be provided. Waiver of interest and loan component of various dues of the disaster affected persons should also be provided.

Recommendation

3.32 The Committee notes that the allocation for mitigating disaster damages, is not purely based on Gadgil Formula, but is based on vulnerability of a particular State. The Committee feels that allocation for SDRF should be made on the basis of vulnerability of a State in the right earnest. (para 7.9.5)

Action Taken

3.32.1 The Fourteenth Finance Commission has already been constituted and is likely to submit its report shortly. The central assistances for disaster management to the States including NE States are as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. The States and this Ministry have already given their suggestions to the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Further Information

3.32.2 The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* its background note on the Natural Disasters caused by devastating unseasonal rains, hailstorm and thunderstorm followed by

earthquake in various parts of the country and ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected States meant for Committee's meeting held on 7th May, 2015 apprised the Committee about the financial mechanism as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission to mitigate the damage caused by the natural disaster as under:-

"Financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is towards relief and not for compensation of the loss suffered. The main objective of the relief fund is to assist the affected persons to restart their economic activities. The Scheme of financing the relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions. The present Scheme, which is in operation from 2015-16 to 2019-20, is based on the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC)."

3.32.3 The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has recommended that the following natural calamities are to be considered eligible for providing assistance from into State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF):-

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Avalanches | (ii) Cyclone | (iii) Cloud burst |
| (iv) Drought | (v) Earthquake | (vi) Tsunami |
| (vii) Fire | (viii) Flood | (ix) Hailstorm |
| (x) Landslides | (xi) Pest attack | (xii) cold wave/frost |

3.32.4 In addition, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has considered that need for flexibility in regard to State-specific disasters and recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the Centrally notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/NDRF, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the available funds in SDRF. The flexibility is to be applicable only after the State has formally listed the disasters for inclusion and notified transparent norms and guidelines with a clear procedure for identification of the beneficiaries for disaster relief for such local disasters, with the approval of the State Executive Committee. This Ministry has already communicated to all States in this regard on 20th March, 2015.

3.32.5 The Fourteenth Finance Commission has recommended allocation of ₹61220 crore in the SDRF for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20 against ₹ 33580.93 crore recommended by 13th Finance Commission for the years 2010-11 to 2014-15. Contribution to the SDRF is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio 75:25 for General States and 90:10 for Special Category States.

Recommendation

3.33 The Committee notes the efforts of the Government to minimize the loss of human lives and to some extent, it has been successful in achieving this task. But there is hardly any effective remedy at hand to minimize the loss of properties, particularly, crops, houses, nets and boats of fishermen, and also the damage to the public utility facilities like electricity, water supply schemes, etc. The recent cyclones Helen and Laila left Andhra and Odisha with colossal devastation, where electrical poles either bent or uprooted, coconut trees uprooted and paddy crops totally damaged by floods. The Committee, however, notes lacunae in regard to the visit

of the Central teams to assess the quantum of damage in an affected State. The Committee observes that the Central teams visit the affected States after a gap of ten or fifteen days or twenty days and by that time one cannot expect a farmer to keep the water logging on in their fields since the farmers engage hired tractors to remove the affected crops. Since the Central Team visits after considerable lapse of time, it is not able to make actual assessment of ground realities pertaining to the loss of property and crop. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that as and when such calamity happens, the Central team must make a visit to the affected State within a period of two or three days for a preliminary assessment and to take stock of ground realities. For final assessment, it would not be proper for Central team on its own to finalise the actual damage. The Committee is of the considered opinion that the both the State and the Central Government officials after detailed discussions should arrive at final conclusion and final assessments of total loss. It is equally important to look into the new funding options which would further enhance the process for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development in a more integrated format. (para 7.10.4)

Action Taken

3.33.1 Upon receipt of the memorandum from the affected State, the IMCT is constituted immediately as per the established procedure. The IMCT finalises its travel programme in consultation with the affected State. Therefore, there is no institutional delay for visit of the IMCT. After receipt of the IMCT report, the same is placed before the sub-Committee of NEC, where a representative of the State Government is also invited. This enables a transparent process of examination of the IMCT recommendations *vis-a-vis* the memorandum submitted by the State. In order to increase the resources for Disaster Management purpose, the Government has recently introduced flexi funds within the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to undertake mitigation/restoration activities in case of natural calamities. With this mechanism, an enabling provision has been made.

Further Recommendation

3.33.2 **The Committee is not convinced with the reply as there are some discrepancies in the estimates of loss as claimed by the State Government and as estimated by IMCT, wherein there is also a representative of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee notes that the representatives of the Ministry of Finance as well as representatives of other Ministries failed to arrive at the appropriate estimate of loss. The Committee further notes that the amount as approved by NEC was not even released by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that such estimation of losses mocks the so called claims of transparent system made by the Government. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Central Government should work in tandem with State Governments facing the disaster. The Committee feels that the Central Government may adhere to resilient system of monitoring and may order strict auditing on utilization of funds as given by the Central Government to deal with situation of natural disaster. The Committee also takes into account the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding relief of ₹ 1000 crore to the State Governments of J&K and Andhra Pradesh, but the Committee understands that even this announcement of the highest executive of the country has not been honoured and Andhra Pradesh has been given only ₹ 400 crore. The same case may be with J&K.**

3.33.3 The Committee is of the considered view that if any package is announced by the Prime Minister, it should be honoured by everyone without any question. If there is some reservation in any quarter of the Government, the Prime Minister should be properly briefed before any announcement. The Hudhud cyclone struck Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and both the States suffered loss, though more in Andhra Pradesh. However the Prime Minister chose to announce the relief package only for Andhra Pradesh. The Committee apprehends that the people of Odisha may feel neglected in the absence of concrete assurance from the Central Government for financial assistance to meet the expenditure for medium term and long term reconstruction plan. The Committee is also of the view that financial assistance and psychological relief should go hand in hand and the Government must be very cautious in future in dealing with States affected by disasters.

Recommendation

3.34 The Committee desires that Planning Commission must respond quickly to the needs of the Central Ministries/Departments/States in matters relating to the plan for meeting situations arising out of natural disasters, by enabling adjustment of schemes to meet the requirements as far as possible. A mechanism should be evolved to take expeditious decisions on proposals which involve transfer of funds from one scheme to another, or any other change which involves departure from the existing schemes/pattern of assistance, new schemes and relaxation in procedures, etc. in the case of natural disasters. (para 7.10.5)

Action Taken

3.34.1 Recently, Government has introduced flexi funds within the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to undertake mitigation / restoration activities in case of natural calamities. With this mechanism for situations arising out of natural disasters, an enabling provision for adjustment of the schemes to meet the requirements has been made.

Recommendation

3.35 In order to enable the Ministry of Home Affairs to discharge its duties and responsibilities pertaining to disaster management, it is essential that adequate number of staff and officers should be posted in the DM Division of MHA. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Disaster Management Division (DM Division) of the MHA in the Government of India may be strengthened so that it is better equipped to undertake the activities assigned by the Act. (para 8.7.5)

Action Taken

3.35.1 The Task Force appointed to review the Disaster Management Act has also recommended strengthening of Disaster Management Division to discharge its statutory functions as well as to serve as Secretariat to National Executive Committee. As the incident of disasters are increasing day by day, there is immediate need to strengthen the Division. A proposal to strengthen DM Division has been prepared however due to a ban on creation of posts, the same is being revisited.

Further Recommendation

3.35.2 The Committee reiterates its recommendation that Disaster Management Division (DM Division) of the MHA in the Government of India may be strengthened so that it is better equipped to undertake the activities assigned by the Act keeping in view the frequent occurrence of disasters in the country.

Recommendation

3.36 The Committee is in agreement with the observation of the Task Force that the NDMA should be given the responsibility of preparing the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and also of monitoring the activities of various Ministries regarding the tasks assigned by the Act. The Committee notes that NDMA is prepared to undertake the proposed onerous task of preparing NDMP. The Committee recommends that the Government must provide enabling environment by providing adequate number of consultants, experts and supportive staff and officers to NDMA to undertake the task of preparing NDMP. (para 8.7.5)

Action Taken

3.36.1 This is one of the recommendations of the Task Force which is under consideration of the Government. NDMA has adequate number of human resources and they also have the powers to engage consultants whenever required.

Further Recommendation

3.36.2 The Committee recommends that Government should act upon recommendation of the Task Force without further delay and NDMA should finalize National Disaster Management Plan soon.

CHAPTER - IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH THE FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is surprised to observe that NDMA was constituted in 2006 under the DM Act, 2005 and even after elapse of a period of seven years, NDMA has not framed its business rules pertaining to internal conduct of NDMA and it is only after observation of C&AG that in an internal meeting of NDMA a decision was taken to follow the provisions of Manual of Office Procedure (MOP) of Government of India. The Committee feels that separate and specific business rules and SOPs for NDMA would inject functional efficiency. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NDMA must frame its own business rules pertaining to its internal working. (para 2.5.4)

Action Taken

4.1.1 The Government is in agreement with the recommendations of the Committee and pursuing NDMA to prepare their business rules pertaining to their internal working to inject functional efficiency. NDMA has already been suitably advised by MHA.

Recommendation

4.2 The Committee presumes that obscurity over the role and responsibility of stakeholders of disaster management lies primarily because of the fact that MHA functions as an executive arm of NDMA while on the other hand MHA also acts as an administrative Ministry of it. Although the DM Act stipulates the various functions of NDMA, NEC, NCMC, NDRF and NIDM but the Committee feels that clear demarcation of role and responsibility of various stakeholders in disaster management would be crystal clear only when the functional relation between MHA and NDMA is explicitly mentioned in the DM Act or at least in the Rules. (para 2.6.3)

Action Taken

4.2.1 Disaster Management is multi-stakeholder activity having cross cutting issues. Government has recognized that for effective disaster management, a coordinated approach is needed which may sometimes lead to overlapping or functions of various agencies. To reduce this, the Government had appointed a Task Force. On the basis of recommendations of Task Force are explicit relationship between NDMA and MHA is being worked-out.

Recommendation

4.3 The Committee is in agreement with the observation of the Task Force that the function of the local authority during response, relief and rehabilitation phase of disaster should

be well defined as the same would strengthen upgrade and supplement efforts towards combating emerging and new vulnerabilities. The role and responsibility of local authorities and municipal corporations in the management of disaster may be cautiously and diligently explored. Necessary amendments may be made in the DM Act after discussions with the State Governments. (para 2.20.6)

Action Taken

4.3.1 A proposal to amend the Disaster Management Act on the basis of the recommendations of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.

Recommendation

4.4 The Committee acclaims the role of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in combating the major disasters occurring in the country including the recent one that took place in Uttarakhand. The Committee agrees that institutional mechanism should be developed to have the benefits of expertise of NDRF as store house in combating disaster management. To have the continuity in the system, the Committee recommends that tenure of some experienced NDRF Personnel be extended beyond normal deputation period of 5 years to 7-10 years. Some regular staff may also be recruited as suggested by the Task Force for continuity. (para 2.21.3)

Action Taken

4.4.1 NDRF personnel are drawn from different forces at different point of time and all the trained personnel are not repatriated in one go. Moreover, at the time of disasters the services of other Central Armed Police Force are also utilized. The experience / expertise acquired in NDRF is useful even in other CAPFs. By this way, the number of specialized persons keeps on growing. In view of this, it is felt that there is no need to change the present arrangement. However, a proposal for extending deputation period of some NDRF personnel from 5-7 years is under consideration of this Ministry. As the proposal involves amendments in the Recruitment Rules which require Inter- Ministerial consultation, it may take some more time.

Recommendation

4.5 The Committee further believes that personnel involved in the exercise have to draw upon knowledge of best practices and resources available to them. Information and training on ways to better respond to and mitigate disasters to the responders should go a long way in building the capacity and resilience of the country to reduce and prevent disasters. Training is an integral part of capacity building as trained personnel respond much better to different disasters and appreciate the need for preventive measures. Professional training in disaster management should be built into the existing pedagogic research and education. Specialised courses for disaster management may also be developed by universities and professional teaching institutions, and disaster management should be treated as a distinct academic and professional discipline. The Committee recommends that NIDM may be entrusted with this task. Specific component in professional and specialised courses like medicine, nursing, engineering, environmental sciences, architecture, and town and country planning could also

find place in the curriculum. An appropriate component of disaster awareness at the school level will help increase awareness among children and, in many cases, parents and other family members through these children. (para 2.23.7)

Action Taken

4.5.1 As per Section 42(9)(f) of the Disaster Management Act, the National Institute of Disaster Management, for the discharge of its functions, may develop educational material for Disaster Management including academic and professional courses. Accordingly, the recommendations of the committee already finds a place in the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. As regards disaster awareness at the school level, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already integrated a short course on Disaster Management in the school curriculum.

4.5.2 Further, National Institute of Disaster Management and, Ministry of Human Resource Development have been requested *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs letter dated 2nd December, 2014 to indicate whether any curriculum / courses as recommended by the Department Related Parliamentary Committee has been developed / introduced.

Recommendation

4.6 The Committee notes that Government has adopted mitigation and prevention as essential components of their development strategy. The Committee is of the strong view that National Response Plan will pave the way for institutionalizing the response plan at three tiers as envisaged in the Disaster Management Act. Similarly, the Capacity Development Plan will provide a roadmap for undertaking the capacity building for people engaged in different facets of disaster management and enhance the capacity at the individual, organizational as well as at the environmental levels. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that the National Response Plan, National Human Resource and Capacity Development Plan and Mitigation Plans may be finalized at the earliest and adopted by respective nodal Ministries. (para 3.6.5)

Action Taken

4.6.1 As per Disaster Management Act, one of the functions of the National Executive Committee (NEC) is to prepare the national plan to be approved by the National Authority. The NEC in its meeting held on 21st October, 2013 has finalised National Disaster Management Plan consisting of Disaster Mitigation Plan, Disaster Response Plan and Capacity Development Plan. The draft National Plan has been sent to the National Authority *vide* letter No. 30-3/2011-NDM-II dated 25th October, 2014 for their consideration and approval.

Recommendation

4.7 The Committee believes that once the mitigation plans are approved, concerned Ministries will undertake activities for taking the prevention and mitigation measures to address the hazard and risk involved in the activities of their sector. The Committee hopes that with all measures undertaken, Government will ensure that hazards do not turn into disasters. (para 3.6.6)

Action Taken

4.7.1 As per Disaster Management Act, every Ministry/Department of the Central Government is required to prepare a Disaster Management Plan specifying the measures to be taken by them for prevention and mitigation of the disasters in accordance with the National Plan. Once the National Plan is approved by NDMA, the Central Ministries/Departments will finalize their Disaster Management Plan and take necessary measures for prevention and mitigation of disasters.

Recommendation

4.8 The Committee observes that 44% geographical area of Chhattisgarh is forest due to which, in addition to natural calamity, loss of human life, livestock and crop take place due to attacks of wild animal, snake bite, Scorpion bite, etc. The State Government suggested that it should be included as a natural calamity. The Committee recommends that the Government may consider the request of State Government for inclusion of 'loss of life and property due to wild animal attacks and sun stroke', under natural calamity. The Committee also observes that the State needs funds to meet its non-plan infrastructural requirement, agricultural subsidy for drought cases, enhancement in quality of infrastructure/human resource requirement and preparation of guidelines for dams/reservoir which affect inter-State boundaries. In the flood affected districts of Chhattisgarh, fund is required for establishment of optical/microwave remote sensing data, flood control work on rivers, engineering data on flood control, investigation on GPS, development etc. All these issues need to be looked into. The Committee believes that an effective Disaster Management strategy lessens the impact of any disaster, which can be achieved through strengthening and reorienting existing organizational and administrative structure from District, State & up to National level. The emergency response plan must first attempt to follow a multi-hazard approach, to bring out all the Disasters on a single platform and incorporate the culture of quick response. It must provide a framework to the primary and secondary agencies and departments, which can outline their own activities for Disaster response. The plan must include specific disaster action plans along with model scenarios in detail to conduct practice drills at district level. The Committee hopes that the Government of Chhattisgarh would undertake these measures for strengthening Disaster Management set up in the State and the Ministry of Home Affairs should provide due guidance to the State Government. (para 4.3.6)

Action Taken

4.8.1 With regard to the request of the State Government for inclusion of 'loss of life and property due to wild animal attacks and sun stroke', under natural calamity, it is informed that the issue of inclusion of any disaster in the list of notified natural disasters has traditionally been considered by the successive Finance Commissions set up under the constitution of India from time to time. The present list is based on the recommendation of the 13th Finance Commission in which the calamities mentioned by the State Government have not been included for assistance from SDR Fund/NDR Fund. As such, the concerned State Government is required to provide relief/assistance from its own resources/plan according to its State specific relief manual/code. Further, the 14th Finance Commission has been constituted. The Ministry of Home Affairs in its memorandum to Fourteenth Finance Commission has suggested that the

Finance Commission may take appropriate decisions on the inclusion of other natural disasters including lightning, snake bites, sun stroke, animal attack etc.

4.8.2 The State Government of Chhattisgarh was informed on 16th April, 2014 about the recommendations of DPSC for taking up measures for strengthening of Disaster Management set-up in the State. Response from the State Government is still awaited. However, State Government has been reminded again on 2nd December, 2014.

Recommendation

4.9 The Committee take into account the suggestions of MHA and agrees that the work on State Disaster Management Plan and State Disaster Resource Inventory work needs to be expedited for strengthening of disaster management setup in the State and therefore, recommends that appropriate action may be taken in that direction. The Committee notes that multi-hazard District Disaster Management Plan is available only for Gurgaon but for others, it is under preparation. The Committee recommends that the model plans for remaining districts may be prepared on priority basis. (para 4.5.5)

Action Taken

4.9.1 The recommendation of the Committee is about Haryana. The State Government was requested *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs letter dated 21st April, 2014 to send their response about the recommendations of DPSC. Further, *vide* letter dated 27th November, 2014 the State Government was asked to prepare District Disaster Management Plan for the remaining districts of Haryana. Response from State Government is still awaited.

Recommendation

4.10 The Committee also recommends that State Disaster Management Policy must be formulated at the earliest. The Committee also feels that human resource support for SDMA and DDMA is required. The Committee, therefore, feels that Government must develop a Human Resource Development Plan for the State and build partnerships with various local level resource institutions for capacity building, training and knowledge management. The State Government must focus on building capacity of Panchayats and other local bodies on disaster management. (para 4.5.6)

4.10.1 The Committee observes that concrete steps are required to strengthen Disaster Management Mechanism in the State which *inter-alia* includes preparation of Disaster Resource Inventory, Regular updation of DM plans of the district and mock drills; strengthening of the Emergency Operation Centres both at the State and district level; Strengthening of early warning and dissemination systems in the State; strengthening and skill upgradation of rescue personnel; conducting Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA); and Capacity Building/strengthening of training institutes for imparting training on DM. (para 4.5.7)

Action Taken

4.10.2 As per Disaster Management Act, the State Executive Committee is required to prepare State Plan which *inter-alia* will include the capacity building and the preparedness measures to

be taken by the State. The issue raised by the Committee is about Haryana. The State Government was requested *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs letter dated 21st April, 2014 to send their response about the recommendations of DPSC. Further, *vide* letter dated 27th November, 2014 the State Government was asked to prepare State Disaster Management Plan including Human Resource Development Plan and take concrete step require to strengthen Disaster Management mechanism in the State under the Disaster Management Act. Response from State Government is still awaited. Besides writing in connection with DPSC, Ministry of Home Affairs and NDMA has been writing to State Governments to prepare their State Disaster Management Plan.

Recommendation

4.11 The Committee feels that the suggestion of the State Government to make KSDMA a separate entity with KSNDMC & DMC of ATI under its jurisdiction may be examined. The Committee extends whole heartily supports for R&D in the field of DM and DRR for further improvement and desires that concerted efforts should be made in this regard. The Committee also feels that there is urgent need for technical and skilled manpower support for enhancing capacity building as the State in multi-disaster prone zone and frequently faces occurrence of two or more disasters simultaneously. (para 4.7.6)

Action Taken

4.11.1 The recommendations of the Committee relates to Karnataka. The State Government has been informed on 5th June, 2014 about the recommendations and requested to take necessary action for implementation of the recommendation. Reply from State Government is still awaited. Recent State Government has been reminded again on 2nd December, 2014.

Recommendation

4.12 The Committee feels that the State should prepare its DM Act, Disaster Management Policy and DM Bye-Laws, fire service for rural areas, Earthquake Risk Mitigation Bill, updation of planned SOPs. (para 4.8.9)

Action Taken

4.12.1 The recommendation of the Committee is about Maharashtra. Although the States can frame their own laws but once the Central Act is enacted for the sake of uniformity, it would be better to follow the same. However, the State Government has been informed on 21st April, 2014 & 27th November, 2014 about the recommendations of the Committee on the Disaster Management Policy and DM Bye-laws etc. and with a request to take action as per Disaster Management Act, 2005. Response from State Government is still awaited.

Recommendation

4.13 A good communication network is required for dissemination of early warning right upto the village level. Awareness Generation program should be done on continual basis. Massive training of Architects, Engineers and Masons in earth quake resistant design and constructions would be vital. There is need to integrate mainstreaming development plan into

planning process and continuous updation of planned SOPs and manuals. The Committee also stresses for introduction of earthquake resistant techniques into academic curriculum at the engineering colleges and Architect Colleges, ITIs, Poly-techniques. (para 4.8.10)

Action Taken

4.13.1 Certain amount of training has been provided to State Engineers and Architects on Rapid Visual Survey (RVS) and safety of lifeline buildings as a part of the Earthquake Scenario Project. Further work in this direction is being done under National Earthquake Risk Mitigation Project (NERMP). Department of Higher Education has been informed *vide* Ministry of Home Affairs letter dated 2nd December, 2014 about the recommendations of the DPSC and requested to furnish the ATR on the issue.

Recommendation

4.14 The Committee recommends for constitution of State Disaster Response Force, strengthening of Relief and Disaster Management Directorate and DMI and Integration of Disaster Response System. The Committee desired that financial constraints of the NE States, including Manipur in the instant case, should be appreciated and they should be properly be supported to strengthen their disaster management system. (para 4.18.4)

Action Taken

4.14.1 The Fourteenth Finance Commission has already been constituted and is likely to submit its report shortly. The Central assistances for disaster management to the State including NE States are as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. The States and this Ministry have already given their suggestions to the Fourteenth Finance Commission

Recommendation

4.15 The Committee observes that the Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been adopted by Mizoram; however, the Disaster Management Rules is still pending approval. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Disaster Management Rules needs to be approved as soon as possible in order to enable the Department to function smoothly. (para 4.20.4)

Action Taken

4.15.1 The State Government of Mizoram have been informed *vide* MHA letter dated 21st April, 2014 and 1st December, 2014 about the recommendations of the DPSC with the request to expedite the approval of the Disaster Management Rules of the State at the earliest for smooth functioning of the Disaster Management Department of the State.

Recommendation

4.16 The Committee feels that recruitment of adequate staff to man the Emergency Operation Centers is necessary. The Committee also feels that in order to further strengthen Disaster Management mechanism, technical personnel are crucial to be posted in the Department. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the State Government should

appoint additional technical manpower support at the earliest. Further, Union Government in tandem with the State Government must arrive at a decision with regard to providing more funds in SDRF for procurement of equipments for search and rescue work and also for relief of the victims. (para 4.20.5)

Action Taken

4.16.1 The State Government of Mizoram has informed that they have provided skeleton staff to each district. There is no post created for the SEOC. Proposal for creation of certain posts is under consideration of the State Government.

4.16.2 At present there are no separate provisions for equipping and training of the SDRF in present scheme of the Finance Commission. States are arranging funds for purchasing equipments and construction of training infrastructure out of the money earmarked by the 13th Finance Commission for Capacity Building Grants or out of the earmarked 5% of the State Disaster Response Fund, which is meager amount to meet the requirement of some of the smaller and vulnerable States. NDMA has made a recommendation to the 14th Finance Commission for creation of standalone SDRF and one time provision for purchase of equipments.

Further Information

4.16.3 The Ministry of Home Affairs *vide* its background note on the Natural Disasters caused by devastating unseasonal rains, hailstorm and thunderstorm followed by earthquake in various parts of the country and ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected States meant for Committee's meeting held on 7th May, 2015 apprised the Committee about the financial mechanism as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission under SDRF/NDRF to mitigate the damage caused by the natural disaster as under:-

"The Fourteenth Finance Commission has considered that need for flexibility in regard to State-specific disasters and recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the Centrally notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/NDRF, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the available funds in SDRF. The flexibility is to be applicable only after the State has formally listed the disasters for inclusion and notified transparent norms and guidelines with a clear procedure for identification of the beneficiaries for disaster relief for such local disasters, with the approval of the State Executive Committee. This Ministry has already communicated to all States in this regard on 20th March 2015.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission has recommended allocation of ₹61220 crore in the SDRF for the years 2015-16 to 2019-20 against ₹33580.93 crore recommended by Thirteenth Finance Commission for the years 2010-11 to 2014-15. Contribution to the SDRF is shared between the Centre and State in the ratio 75:25 for General States and 90:10 for Special Category States."

Recommendation

4.17 The Committee would also like to suggest for developing interstate and international cooperation for extending support on cross border disasters as 80% boundary of the State is with Bangladesh. The Committee also recommends for development of early warning mechanism within the State resources and linking up with national and international early warning agencies. (para 4.21.9)

Action Taken

4.17.1 The recommendation of the Committee is under examination.

Recommendation

4.18 The Committee recommends that UT Government of Chandigarh should undertake SWOT analysis of the Disaster Management set up in UT and review it from time to time. (para 4.23.3)

Action Taken

4.18.1 The Union Territory of Chandigarh has sought more time to provide SWOT Analysis of their DM set up.

Recommendation

4.19 The Committee is of the view that UT needs capacity building and awareness generation programmes. UT also requires effective mitigation measures to be built in its developmental process and be vigilant to safeguard its territorial/geographical interests. Besides, the UT requires technical guidance and funds for setting up of the Disaster Management Cell and to prepare their Disaster Management Plan. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should take up the issues with the Ministry of Finance for setting up Disaster Management Cell and for establishing SDRF. (para 4.24)

Action Taken

4.19.1 The Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli has informed that various training programmes have been imparted to the college / school students and factory workers from time to time. The administration is in the process of appointing staff for Disaster Management Cell on contract basis.

Recommendation

4.20 The Committee notes the disaster management arrangements as well as preparedness at Chennai Petro Chemicals Ltd. (CPCL) to meet any eventuality. The Committee is of the view that CPCL as well as other such plants should strive to upgrade disaster management arrangements by conducting evaluations at regular intervals. The Committee also desires that Government should also take steps to ensure that effective disaster management system is put in place at such plants in private sector also in the country. The Committee desires to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard. (para 5.5.5)

Action Taken

4.20.1 Disaster Management arrangements as well as preparedness, are in place at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited to meet any eventuality. The existing Disaster Management Plan was evaluated by the Disaster Management Institute (DMI) Bhopal and the Emergency Response & Disaster Management Plan (ERDMP) was approved by them.

4.20.2 Subsequently the ERDMP was submitted to the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) in 2013 after due approval of CPCL Board.

4.20.3 Off-site Disaster Mock drill exercises are conducted every- year by Major Accident Hazard (MAH) units of Manali Industrial area on rotation, involving all stake holders and witnessed by District authorities & NDMA personnel.

4.20.4 The observations made by the observers during the mock drills become the basis for upgradation of ERMDP.

4.20.5 Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been requested on 2nd December, 2014 to take steps to ensure that an effective Disaster Management system is put in place at such plants in private sector also in the country.

Recommendation

4.21 The Committee notes the disaster management arrangements as well as preparedness at Chennai Port Trust to meet any eventuality. The Committee is of the view that Chennai Port Trust as well as other major Port Trusts should strive to upgrade the disaster management arrangements by conducting evaluations at regular intervals. The Committee also desires that Government should also ensure that minor Ports spread across the coastline of the country also take up steps to have effective disaster management system. The Committee desires to be apprised of the steps taken in this regard. (para 5.6.6)

Action Taken

4.21.1 The Ministry of Shipping has been reminded on 1st December, 2014 to ensure that major ports should strive to upgrade the disaster management arrangements by conducting evaluations at regular intervals and also that minor Ports spread across the coastline of the country also take up steps to have effective disaster management systems.

Recommendation

4.22 The Committee notes the Disaster Management arrangements as well as preparedness at SHAR, Sriharikota. The Committee desires .that all other establishments of ISRO should also have well laid disaster management system comparable to world class disaster management arrangements to meet any eventuality in case of any disaster. (para 5.11.7)

Action Taken

4.22.1 ISRO has been reminded on 1st December, 2014 to ensure that their all other establishments should also have a well laid disaster management system / arrangement to meet any eventuality in case of any disaster.

Recommendation

4.23 The Committee hopes that the development of flight model of C band Disaster Management Synthetic Aperture Radar (DMSAR) must have been completed. There should be an effective communication system to receive data from ISRO and disseminate it without any loss of time. There should be regular coordination between Ministry of Home Affairs and ISRO. Disaster Management support program should be widened and strengthened so that even small mishaps that may have taken place predicted or un-predicted, may be communicated for effective and quick relief R&D may be strengthened for improving early warning of disasters. (para 5.11.8)

Action Taken

4.23.1 ISRO has been reminded on 1st December, 2014 to expedite the information on DMSAR.

Recommendation

4.24 The Committee takes note of the submission of additional Chief Secretary on the issue of scientific dredging of River Bed Material (RBM) and restrictive policy of MoEF to treat river system of Uttarakhand as a reserve forest. Since RBM is cited as the major reason for colossal waste and loss, the Committee feels that picking up chugan is essential to clear the centre of the rivers which are at present filled with RBM. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the MoEF may consider without delay the request of the State Government of Uttarakhand and send a Task Force to understand and study the river system in Uttarakhand and reconsider the restricted policy of MoEF so that colossal damage is prevented in future. (para 6.10.11)

Action Taken

4.24.1 The action on this is to be taken by State Government of Uttarakhand and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. They have been reminded on 1st December, 2014 to take action expeditiously and inform MHA to apprise the Committee.

Recommendation

4.25 The Committee takes into account the grievances of the State Government of Uttarakhand regarding the restrictive forest land transfer as a constraint for reconstruction of road connectivity and reply of MoEF thereon. The Committee desires that the State Government may provide specific details of road stretches in respect to which forest diversion in excess of permissible limit of one hectare is required. After getting the information, the MoEF may consider the matter and take an early decision. (para 6.10.14)

Action Taken

4.25.1 The action on this is to be taken by the State Government of Uttarakhand and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. They have been reminded on 1st December, 2014 to take an action expeditiously and inform MHA to appraise the Committee.

Recommendation

4.26 The Committee understands that rescheduling by itself is not a solution as it again be putting burden on the people, but, at the same time, the fact that they would not have to pay the loan till the Government takes a final view would be a temporary psychological relief. The Committee therefore recommends that loan of marginal farmers should be fully waived off and certain appropriate percentage of the loan taken by other category of farmers may be waived off. (para 6.10.16)

Action Taken

4.26.1 The Government of Uttarakhand has been requested to inform about the proposal.

Recommendation

4.27 The State Government should take immediate steps to form Village Disaster Management Committees in all villages of the State. The Government should also take immediate steps to prepare a comprehensive Rehabilitation & Resettlement plan to rehabilitate the disaster affected villages and monitoring and evaluation mechanism as prescribed by GOI and the same should be made functional at the earliest. (para 6.11.5)

Action Taken

4.27.1 The State Government has been reminded to intimate the action taken regarding setting up of village disaster management Committees and comprehensive Rehabilitation & Resettlement plans to rehabilitate the disaster affected villages.

Recommendation

4.28 The Committee notes that IMD has prepared a comprehensive proposal for about ₹360 crores for Integrated Himalayan Meteorological Programme both for Western and Central Himalayas, including locating adequate number of Doppler radars and Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) for monitoring hydro-meteorology, and submitted the same to the Central Government /Planning Commission for approval. The Committee recommends that the proposal which is under active consideration must get green signal because with the implementation of the proposed Meteorological programme, as much as 48 hours advance alert would be available to the State Governments for cloudbursts and extreme weather events in time. It is also important that the globally practiced mitigation efforts of the identified high hazard slide zones must be fully supported and funded by Union Government. (para 6.11.8)

Action Taken

4.28.1 Indian Meteorological Department has proposed an Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme to provide effective and user specific mountain meteorological services in holistic manner in following two parts:

- (i) Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme for Western & Central Himalayas covering four States namely J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sub

Himalayan West Bengal has been approved by the Government in August, 2014 at an estimated cost of ₹ 117.17 Crores to be implemented in the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2014-17).

- (ii) Similarly, another proposal “Integrated Meteorological Services for Northeastern Region”, covering states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim has been submitted to the M/o Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) for in principle approval and funding. IMD has also made a presentation to the M/o DoNER in Oct, 2013. Approval is awaited from the M/o DoNER for further processing of the proposal.

Recommendation

4.29 The Committee feels the need for the road map for reconstruction and rehabilitation and future strategy to overcome such natural disasters. In this connection, the following steps may be considered:-

- (i) need for a multi modal transport system;
- (ii) network of airstrips and heliports;
- (iii) adequate number of air ambulances;
- (iv) network of godowns with built in shelters for providing food security to the stranded population;
- (v) scientific extraction of RBM from rivers beds to ward off expansion of river channels;
- (vi) augmentation of Wireless, Satellite and Ham communication systems and installation of high performance computers and Doppler Radars and Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and other systems. (para 6.11.10)

Action Taken

4.29.1 The Government of India has constituted a Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, for providing broad guidance to re-construction and rehabilitation efforts in Uttarakhand and to take all necessary decisions in this respect. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has also been set-up under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for drawing up a time bound Action Plan for supporting rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Uttarakhand through involvement of various agencies of the Central Government in the post-flood situation. Cabinet Committee on Uttarakhand has met on 31st July and taken decisions regarding providing appropriate assistance to the State Government for restoring and protecting Kedamath temple. IMG has also met regularly and monitored the progress of actions being taken by the central Ministries/Agencies not only, for the immediate relief and restoration, but also for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the State Infrastructure and for preparing an action plan. Part of the financial support for the reconstruction package is being worked out as an externally aided programme, with the involvement of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Recommendation

4.30 The Committee notes that State Government has constituted an expert group to examine the issue of tourism and carrying capacity of remote pilgrimage/tourist sites with a view to issue some guidelines in the matter. The Committee feels that registration of pilgrims should also be examined as Uttarakhand is a multi-entry State with pilgrims coming by various modes of transport and visiting different religious shrines far flung from one another. The Committee also desires that alternative means of livelihood for State population needs to be worked out. (para 6.11.11)

Action Taken

4.30.1 For the Biometric registration of pilgrims the counters have been established at Narsan Toll Plaza, Haridwar Railway Station, Rishikesh Bus Stand, Jankichatti, Guptkashi, Sonprayag, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Badrinath. The Biometric registration facility was started on 30th April, 2014.

4.30.2 The State Government of Uttarakhand is being asked to suggest alternative means of livelihood for the State population.

Recommendation

4.31 The Committee observes that the CRF has been merged into the SDRF, the allocation made through the FC's recommendations are supposed to capitalise the SDRF, although it is not specifically mentioned in the Act. The Committee finds that there is absence of mechanism to capitalise the DDRF. The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that hardly any State Government has set up district disaster funds, let alone providing funds for them. In view of the Committee, this is one important part of the DM Act, 2005, which has not been implemented at all. This is pathetic State of affairs keeping in view the fact that districts are the gross root level implementing authority or agency to deal with all the response measures. The Committee therefore, strongly, feels that the district administration should have immediate and direct access to resources and for that, DDRF must be constituted and capitalized throughout the country without any exception and delay. (para 7.9.6)

Action Taken

4.31.1 The Task Force which was set up to review the Disaster Management Act in one of its recommendations, has suggested that the State Government may decide whether to have response and mitigation funds or to put in place the separate mechanism for timely access to financial resources by District Authorities. The recommendations of the Task Force are under consideration of the Government. Further, the 14th Finance Commission has already been constituted and is likely to submit its report shortly. The central assistances for disaster management to the States including NE States are as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. The States and this Ministry have already given their suggestions to the 14th FC.

Recommendation

4.32 The Committee further desires that at the State level, the SDMA may be authorised for preparing the State Disaster Management Plan and reviewing the performance of various

departments regarding the tasks assigned to them by the Act. A regular monitoring of the activities of various departments of the State Government is required to be put in place for better result. (para 8.7.8)

Action Taken

4.32.1 As per the provision of Disaster Management Act, at present the responsibility to prepare State Disaster Management Plan is of the State Executive Committee and the SDMA has the power to approve it. The Task Force which was constituted to review the Disaster Management Act has recommended that the responsibility to prepare the State Disaster Management Plans may be transferred to SDMAs. The recommendation of Task Force is still under consideration.

Recommendation

4.33 Since, the District Administration is the first responder to any disaster, the Committee considers that the State Government must strengthen the DDMA's for effective disaster management at the local level. In this regard, the Committee recommends that DDMA's should be better equipped to be able to prepare district disaster management plans and undertake other activities of managing disasters. (para 8.7.9)

Action Taken

4.33.1 The Government is contemplating a Plan scheme to assist State Governments in strengthening the DDMA's and SDMA's which will enable them to discharge their statutory functions. The States are being impressed upon to strengthen the DDMA's.

Recommendation

4.34 The Committee notes that mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into program of various Ministries and Departments is the need of hour and the Planning Commission also desires to ensure that Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is inbuilt in all schemes of Central and State Governments. The Ministry of Finance had accordingly issued checklist, while preparing EFC/ SFC/ CNE Memo and DPR for new schemes and revisions amounting to ₹50 crore and above for enforcing DRR. It was also informed that the Building Code will be in public domain to ensure disaster resilience and to incorporate retrofitting principles. Though the Government has clearly articulated the need to look at disaster management as a development issue, but, in practice, it is not happening as most of the functionaries responsible for certifying do not have adequate skills in this regard and all State Governments are not familiar with the methodology to undertake detailed risk assessment and there is very little capacity in the Government to undertake these tasks. The continuing increase in the damage and destruction of property, assets and public infrastructure is witness to this. The Committee views that all development schemes in vulnerable areas should include a disaster mitigation analysis, whereby the feasibility of a project is assessed with respect to vulnerability of the area and the mitigation measures required for sustainability. The aim of a mitigation strategy must focus on reducing losses in the event of a future occurrence of a hazard. The Committee recommends that mitigation measures need to be considered in land use and site planning activities.

Constructions in hazardous areas like flood plains or steep soft slopes are more vulnerable to disasters. Necessary mitigation measures need to be built into the design and costing of development projects. The Committee accordingly is of the considered opinion that random audits of such proposals in areas affected by disasters should be undertaken to ensure adherence to the risk assessment with a long term view for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in development planning. (para 8.7.10)

Action Taken

4.34.1 The Department of Expenditure has issued format for EFC/PIB which takes care of the aspect of main streaming DRR into various programmes/projects implemented by the Ministries/Departments of Government of India as the Ministries/Departments proposing the schemes have to certify that the proposal is secured against natural/man-made disasters like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. If the proposal involves creation/modification of structural and engineering assets or change in land use plans, the disaster management concerns should be assessed.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE - AT A GLANCE

MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Committee strongly recommends that the Central Government must continue to encourage all the stakeholders to adopt National Disaster Management Guidelines framed by the NDMA and the task of monitoring and even the review exercise to assess implementation of the guidelines must be entrusted to NDMA without delay. (para 1.3.2)

STRENGTHENING OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY

The Committee desires that allocation of ₹205 crore for upgradation of National Fire Service College (NFSC) would ensure to meet the requirement of specialized professional training in all aspects and the plan scheme of ₹ 200 crore meant for strengthening of fire and emergency service in the country, which has been completed in March, 2013 would have injected professional proficiency in combating all type of emergencies. The Committee would further like to know the activities to be undertaken in centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of ₹75 crore for 2015. (para 1.8.3)

HEAT WAVE

The Committee desires that as suggested by the State Government of Rajasthan heat wave may also be declared as natural calamity. (para 1.14.3)

APPROACH TOWARDS ZERO LOSS OF LIFE AND MINIMUM LOSS OF PROPERTY

The Committee notes the submission of the Government. It however feels that a lot is still required to make the country more disaster resilient with a motto of having the approach towards 'Zero loss of life and minimum loss of property' along with fast pace of rehabilitation and compensation. The Committee in this context appreciate the aim of the Odisha Government which has adopted the principle of Zero loss of life. (para 1.27.3)

VACANCIES IN NDMA

The Committee does not buy the contention of the Government keeping in mind vacancies of the Vice Chairman and other members of the Authority. The Constitution of the Authority is still pending with vacancies for more than eight months. The Committee feels that the country can ill afford indecisiveness at the apex level in the matter of disaster management. The Committee therefore strongly recommends that the

posts of the Vice Chairman and other members should be filled without further delay. The Committee also apprehends that the approval of the National Disaster Management Plan may get stuck in the newly constituted NDMA as the new incumbents must be needing time to go through and understand it. The Committee therefore directs that the National Disaster Management Plan, as prepared by NEC (National Executive Council) and which is under consideration of NDMA be cleared at the earliest so that the same is implemented throughout the country for better disaster management without much delay. (para 3.1.2)

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Committee finds the views offered by the Government somewhat confusing as in case guidelines of NDMA are not mandatory then there is no point in having meetings with the State Governments for its compliance. In view of the Committee the guidelines of a authority of apex level should have some sanctity befitting it's status. The Committee also understands that National Disaster Management Guidelines are to be implemented subject to availability of resources in the hands of State Governments/ Union Territories and other stakeholders and the feasibility of implementation etc. However, keeping in view the guiding documents for preparedness, preventive and mitigation activities against any disaster, the Central Government must make all out efforts to persuade all stakeholders for effective implementation of those guidelines. (para 3.2.5)

MONITORING OF PERFORMANCE OF NDMA

The Committee notes the evasive reply and is dismayed to observe that instead of being specific on the issue of approval and implementation as well as completion of the projects, the Government is trying to beat around the bushes. The Committee reiterates its recommendation and desires that the performance of NDMA should be monitored at the apex level. (para 3.3.4)

EFFECTIVE MAINSTREAMING OF DRR

The Committee is of the considered view that effective maistreaming of DRR into the development strategy/plan would lead to achievement of target of National Policy and better disaster management. The Committee during its visit to Visakhapatnam in connection with on the spot study of relief and rehabilitation schemes in the aftermath of Hudhud cyclone, came to know about the absence of this provision in the Developmental projects and it seemed that the State Government was unaware of such provisions. The Committee, therefore, recommends that monitoring mechanism may be evolved to ensure mandatory and strict compliance of guidelines of the Ministry of Finance regarding actual utilization of 10% flexi funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). (para 3.4.4)

FILLING UP OF CRITICAL POST IN NDMA

The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that the critical posts in NDMA like those of Financial Advisor and Advisor Operation are vacant and Vice Chairman and some Members are yet to be appointed, therefore, the committee wonders as to how the system in NDMA is functioning though it has so much vital role to play and responsibility to discharge. The Committee therefore recommends that all the vacant posts should be filled up without further delay. (para 3.5.2)

TRAINING TO THE SDRF PERSONNEL

The Committee desires that the Ministry of Home Affairs may highlight and share with other States the effective combating of the very severe cyclone 'Phailin', which had struck Odisha in the month of October 2013, to make them understand that existence of SDRF in a State would immensely help the State Government in dealing with the pre and post disaster situations. The Committee in this regard would also like to observe that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has raised only one battalion of SDRF, which is quite not enough in view of the frequency of cyclones being faced by the State annually. The Committee therefore emphasizes that the MHA should persuade every State/UT Government to raise sufficient SDRF from its own resources. The Committee underlines that State Disaster Response Forces need to be created, equipped and trained by the State Governments, so that they can play an effective role during disaster response. The Committee further recommends that NDRF and CAPF must be entrusted with the responsibility of extending training to the SDRF personnel. (para 3.6.5)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (NIDM) AS CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

The Committee, while taking note of the fact that National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is functioning as an autonomous body under the broad policies of NDMA, reiterates its recommendation that NIDM must be duty-bound to act as centre for excellence so far as the capacity building for effective disaster management is concerned. The Government may also consider making NIDM institute of national importance. (para 3.7.2)

PROVISIONS OF 10% FLEXI-FUNDS

The Committee notes the reply but feels that the laudable initiative has not gathered momentum and there is lack of response or knowledge on the part of State Governments. The Committee desires that provisions of 10% flexi-funds should be made popular among the State Governments. The Ministry may discuss with all the States. (para 3.8.3)

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF NDMA

The Committee wonders as to why not the tenure and age limit of the Members should be specified in the DM Act, as has been prescribed in other Acts such as those

relating to the Central Regulatory Commission, the Election Commission, the Competition Commission and the National Human Rights Commission, etc. After all, appointments in those bodies are also made with the approval of Prime Minister and such prerogative is not subject to any challenge. The Committee is of the firm opinion that discretion should not, by any stretch of imagination, give suspicion in any mind. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation that the selection of members of NDMA should be through an open and transparent process and for the purpose a Search and Selection Committee may be constituted. (para 3.9.2)

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF NDMA

The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure over the prevailing state of affairs pertaining to composition and functioning of NDMA wherein many posts of Members are vacant since long and the issue relating to re-constitution of Advisory Committee of NDMA is hanging fire since June, 2010. The Committee understands that such *modus operandi* of NDMA would be unacceptable to any Government of the democratic country where disasters visit so frequently and so vigorously. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that vacant posts of Members in NDMA be filled up without further delay and Advisory Committee of NDMA be reconstituted, sooner the better for effective functioning of NDMA. (para 3.10.2)

BETTER DEVELOPMENTAL TRACK

The Committee observes that relief to the persons affected by the disaster must be immediate as well as comprehensive so that affected persons are solaced immediately and economic status of the affected State can be brought back on a better developmental track. The Committee in this regard, recommends that the role of banks in implementation of relief programme and long term reconstruction plan must be prompt and pro-active and sympathetic while fixing terms of loan interest and period of repayment of loan and grant for fresh loan. The Committee also feels that the provision mandating NDMA for recommending allocation of funds for the purpose of mitigation and relief in repayment to loans or for grant of fresh loans to the affected persons by disasters may be incorporated by bringing amendment to the DM Act. (para 3.11.2)

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL

The Committee is of the considered view that since district administration is the first responder to any disaster, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) must be well equipped as per the provision of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Financial assistance at the nick of time is required in the event of any disaster and, therefore, it cannot wait assessment of damage and releasing time of adequate fund either from Central Government or State Government. Therefore, on the spot financial management at the district level is a must to meet immediate requirement of fund. The Committee also notes that with regard to the Disaster Response Fund and the Disaster Mitigation Fund at national, State and district levels as stipulated under the DM Act, only the National and

State Disaster Response Fund have become operational till now and with the provision of 10% Flexi-funds under CSS, the Government is of the view that funds for other purposes may not be required. The Committee is not in agreement with the views of the Government as the concept of flexi-funds may not have legal sanctity and it has other aspects under its coverage, disaster mitigation as one of them. (para 3.12.3)

HOME GUARDS

Though Home Guards function under the administrative control of State Governments, nevertheless, Central Government must prepare plan and effective guidelines which should be adopted by States for raising, equipping and training of the Home Guards. (para 3.13.2)

HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Committee is of the strong view that holistic approach to disaster management *viz.* paradigm shift from response centric reactive approach to prevention, preparedness and mitigation must entail capacity and resilience to withstand the potential damage of disaster so far safety of lives and protection of property is concerned. That is possible only when preparedness to prevention and mitigation is strengthened at the ground level. But the Committee is pained to observe that adhocism is being used so far as implementation of policies and statutory provisions is concerned. The Committee wishes to draw attention of the Government to the issues like non existence of DDMA's, except in some States, non provisioning of operationalisation of Disaster Response Funds at national and State level, Constitution of SDRF as stand alone Force on the line of NDRF by all States, institutionalization of Disaster management at PRI/ULB level, strengthening of EOCs at State, District, Sub-Division and Revenue Circle level, non maintenance of the Cyclone Shelters and poor maintenance of early warning systems in vulnerable areas in the States as well as no proper establishment & maintenance of EOCs at district level. The Committee desires that these issues are addressed without any failure. (para 3.14.2)

PROJECTS UNDER 'MAKING OUR CITY SAFE'

The Committee is of the considered opinion that the loss of life and property due to disaster can be prevented and mitigated by enforcing techno legal regime on the ground level. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the Government must undertake concerted efforts, for implementation of building bye-laws, land use zoning regulations, development controlled regulations, town and Country Planning laws in various States to ensure structural safety against natural hazards and to strengthen the mechanisms for their compliance for better disaster management. The Committee in this background recommends that the decisions taken in the First session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in May, 2013 in which there was a session on 'Making Our City Safe', must be implemented in letter and spirit. (Para 3.15.2)

WEAKNESSES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT SET UP IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The colossal devastation caused by the recent cyclone Hudhud in Vishakhapatnam is a testimony to the truth to inherent weaknesses in Disaster Management set up in Andhra Pradesh which has been highlighted by the Committee in Para 4.2.4 of its 178th Report. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that Union Ministry of Home Affairs must monitor to ensure that all the State Governments undertake suitable measures to overcome the weaknesses in the system. (para 3.16.2)

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-UNDP PROGRAMME

The Committee recommends for mid-term evaluation of the implementation of Government of India- UNDP Programme (2013-2017)- enhancing institutional and community resilience to disaster and climate change. The Government should now evaluate the achievement of institutional capacities and climate risk reduction measures to assess as to how much the same have been integrated to development programs in urban areas as against the set target/objective and also to find out scope for improvement for better implementation. (para 3.17.2)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE TASK FORCE

The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that Government is procrastinating in considering the recommendation of the Task Force which are of pivotal importance for better disaster management. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that Government must consider the suggestions of Task Force in time bound manner so that appropriate action is taken well within time. (para 3.18.2)

HAZARD SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Committee reiterates its suggestion that in order to make the Disaster Management set up more resilient and effective in the Assam, the State Government must chalk out hazard specific strategic planning and encourage greater involvement of DDMA/PRI's and skill networking with expert institution for better disaster risk reduction. The Committee further reiterates its recommendation that Government must reconsider setting up of a state of the art institute of Disaster Management in Assam for carrying out need based training and capacity building activities in the State for NER. (para 3.19.4)

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The replies of the Ministry in response to the committee's recommendation are very general and vague, therefore, the Committee desires that Ministry of Home Affairs must furnish state specific steps taken for strengthening and institutionalization of Disaster Management at the ground level. (para 3.20.2)

REQUIREMENTS OF UTS

The Committee is not in agreement with the imposition of a blanket ban on creation of ports which is urgently required for making the establishment of Disaster Management fully functional and is of the view that sanction for posts should be accorded at the earliest. The Demand of better communication support between islands in view of their topography as well as transport vehicles appears to be justified and should be looked into on priority basis. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that Ministry of Finance must appreciate the requirements of UTs and consider the proposal of UT division of Ministry of Home Affairs positively. (para 3.21.5)

SETTING UP OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT CELL IN THE UT OF DAMAN & DIU

The Committee observes that since setting up of Disaster Management cell in the UT of Daman & Diu involves creation of posts implying financial requirement, therefore, Central Government must look into the matter without much delay and guide the UT for setting up /strengthening of disaster management set up and creating public awareness towards capacity building of disaster management. (para 3.22.2)

SETTING UP OF DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE IN THE UT OF LAKSHADWEEP

The Committee notes the reply and observes that the reply is silent on the core issue of the recommendations which concerns with the proposal of setting up of disaster response force in the UT of Lakshadweep. It seems that the proposal is still pending with the Ministry of Finance. If it is so the Committee recommends that the proposal should be approved without any further delay. (para 3.23.2)

DISASTER IN UTTARAKHAND

The Committee is constrained to express its displeasure that out of 3,178 missing persons from the other states 437 next of kin (NoK) of missing persons are still to be compensated in the aftermath of the disaster in Uttarakhand even after elapse of one and half year despite the assurance of State Government and Union Home Secretary for completing formalities for compensation without much delay. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that State Government should immediately act upon the recommendation of the Committee to ensure timely compensation to NoK of missing persons without causing than further delay. (para 3.24.2)

CLAIMS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

The Committee observes that the Ministry of Home Affairs in response to recommendation contained in Para 6.6.4 apprised the Committee that out of 3,178 missing persons from other States, death certificates and ex-gratia relief have been provided to next to kin of 2,761 person only. The Committee, therefore, desires that the State Government should check and clarify the fact so that all assurance claims of life and property are settled fully at the earliest. (para 3.25.2)

DUE AND LEGITIMATE RELIEF AMOUNT

The Committee notes that only 77.75% beneficiaries have been given first installment of ₹1.5 lakh. The Committee is of the view that this is not a good achievement made by the State Government after lapse of a substantial period. The Committee therefore recommends that all the remaining beneficiaries should be provided their due and legitimate relief amount within three months. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this matter. (para 3.26.3)

CONSTRUCTION OF SHELTER HOUSES/COMMUNITY CENTRES WITH SUFFICIENT FOOD STOCK IN UTTARAKHAND

The Committee notes that the reply of the Ministry is silent on the issue of construction of shelter houses/community centres with sufficient food stock in Uttarakhand. The Committee recommends that Government should pay urgent attention to this vital issue of infrastructure. (para 3.27.2)

SCHOOL SAFETY

The Committee recommends that the pilot project of Government of India on school safety should cover all schools of each district of all states and UTs. The committee further recommends that Government should undertake concrete steps for upgrading the skills of personal and communities including the NGOs. (Para 3.29.2)

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM RECONSTRUCTION PACKAGE FOR UTTRAKHAND

The Committee observes that Planning Commission had worked out a medium and long term reconstruction package for Uttrakhand which includes a financial package of ₹ 7364 crore from Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Central Plan, Special Plan Assistance and Externally Added Projects. The Committee now hopes that the NITI Aayog would take cognizance of the decision of the erstwhile Planning Commission and the concerted course of action would be taken by the Central Government to ameliorate Uttrakhand from the shock of devastation and put the State back on the rail with the objective of better back. (para 3.30.15)

SELECTION OF ALIGNMENT OF ROADS

The Committee further notes that as per the direction from PMO and in consultation with the Army about 365 km. road length is to be handed over to MoRT & H in Uttarakhand from BRO. The Committee recommends that the process of handing over the road be completed at the earliest. The Committee also desires that the roads so taken from the BRO should be maintained properly by NHAI. The Committee also hopes that the services of the expert group with experts from Ministry of Science and Technology (CRRI, CSIR, GSI etc.) constituted to assist BRO in technical matters such as selection of alignment of roads with the help of latest technology/trial of new technologies will be utilized and roads of international standards as one can see in hilly regions of Europe will be constructed in Uttarakhand. (para 3.30.16)

COMPLETION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TOURISM PROMOTION PROJECTS

The Committee strongly recommends that approved amount to the tune of ₹ 7,346 crore must be released to the Government of Uttarakhand within set time frame so that the State's economy is put on track without much delay by emphasizing completion of infrastructure and tourism promotion projects in time. The committee further recommends that highly sophisticated world class area specific warning system may be provided. Waiver of interest and loan component of various dues of the disaster affected persons should also be provided. (para 3.31.4)

AUDITING ON UTILIZATION OF FUNDS

The Committee is not convinced with the reply as there are some discrepancies in the estimates of loss as claimed by the State Government and as estimated by IMCT, wherein there is also a representative of the Ministry of Finance. The Committee notes that the representatives of the Ministry of Finance as well as representatives of other Ministries failed to arrive at the appropriate estimate of loss. The Committee further notes that the amount as approved by NEC was not even released by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that such estimation of losses mocks the so called claims of transparent system made by the Government. The Committee, therefore, desires that the Central Government should work in tandem with State Governments facing the disaster. The Committee feels that the Central Government may adhere to resilient system of monitoring and may order strict auditing on utilization of funds as given by the Central Government to deal with situation of natural disaster. The Committee also takes into account the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding relief of ₹ 1000 crore to the State Governments of J&K and Andhra Pradesh, but the Committee understands that even this announcement of the highest executive of the country has not been honoured and Andhra Pradesh has been given only ₹ 400 crore. The same case may be with J&K. (para 3.33.2)

HUDHUD CYCLONE

The Committee is of the considered view that if any package is announced by the Prime Minister, it should be honoured by everyone without any question. If there is some reservation in any quarter of the Government, the Prime Minister should be properly briefed before any announcement. The Hudhud cyclone struck Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and both the States suffered loss, though more in Andhra Pradesh. However the Prime Minister chose to announce the relief package only for Andhra Pradesh. The Committee apprehends that the people of Odisha may feel neglected in the absence of concrete assurance from the Central Government for financial assistance to meet the expenditure for medium term and long term reconstruction plan. The Committee is also of the view that financial assistance and psychological relief should go hand in hand and the Government must be very cautious in future in dealing with States affected by disasters. (para 3.33.3)

STRENGTHENING OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT DIVISION OF MHA, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The Committee reiterates its recommendation that Disaster Management Division (DM Division) of the MHA in the Government of India may be strengthened so that it is better equipped to undertake the activities assigned by the Act keeping in view the frequent occurrence of disasters in the country. (para 3.35.2)

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee recommends that Government should act upon recommendation of the Task Force without further delay and NDMA should finalize National Disaster Management Plan soon. (para 3.36.2)

MINUTES

XV
FIFTEENTH MEETING

The Committee met at 10.00 A.M. on Thursday, the 7th May, 2015 in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri P. Bhattacharya — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri K. Rahman Khan
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Dr. V. Maitreyan
5. Shri Vijay Goel
6. Shri Derek O' Brien
7. Shri Baishnab Parida
8. Shri D. Raja

LOK SABHA

9. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
10. Shri Selvakumara Chinnayan S.
11. Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
12. Shri Chandrakant Khaire
13. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
14. Shrimati Kirron Kher
15. Shri Kaushal Kishore
16. Shri Harish Meena
17. Shri Nagarajan P.
18. Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel
19. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
20. Dr. Satya Pal Singh
21. Shri B. Sreeramulu

SECRETARIAT

Shri P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, *Joint Secretary*
Shri Vimal Kumar, *Director*
Shri D.K. Mishra, *Joint Director*
Shri Bhupendra Bhaskar, *Assistant Director*
Shri Anurag Ranjan, *Assistant Director*

2.0 At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee and informed them about the agenda of the meeting *i.e.*,

- (i) proposed visit of the Committee to Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur from 25th to 29th May, 2015 to undertake on the spot study of development in North-Eastern Region and implementation of Action Taken Report by the Government on 173rd Report of the Committee; and
- (ii) Hearing of representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recent Natural Disasters caused by devastating un seasonal rains, hailstorm, thunderstorm and earthquake in Northern and Eastern parts of the country and ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected States.

3.0 * * *

4.0 * * *

*[On Arrival of the Additional Secretary, MHA And Representatives of
Ministry of Agriculture and Finance]*

5.0 The Chairman then welcomed the Additional Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Finance to the sitting and asked the Additional Secretary to brief the Committee on the present status of rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in the affected States in the aftermath of recent Natural Disasters.

5.1 The Joint Secretary, Disaster Management made a power point presentation on the subject. After the presentation, Members sought clarifications on the issues such as assessment of losses suffered by farmers due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains, status of forecasting mechanism for disaster in the country, study on earthquake-resistant buildings, financial compensation to the victims of recent natural disasters and constitution and vacancies in NDMA etc. The queries were responded to by the officials. With regard to unanswered queries the Chairman asked the officials to send written replies at the earliest.

6.0 A Verbatim record of the Proceeding of the meeting was kept.

7.0 The Committee then adjourned at 11.10 A.M.

XVI
SIXTEENTH MEETING

The Committee met at 3.00 P.M. on Thursday, the 11th June, 2015 in Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Shri P. Bhattacharya — *Chairman*

RAJYA SABHA

2. Shri K. Rahman Khan
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Dr. V. Maitreyan
5. Shri Neeraj Shekhar
6. Shri Baishnab Parida
7. Shri D. Raja
8. Shri Sitaram Yechury

LOK SABHA

9. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
10. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary
11. Shri Selvakumara Chinnayan S.
12. Shri Ramen Deka
13. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
14. Shri Kaushal Kishore
15. Shri Harish Meena
16. Shri Nagarajan P.
17. Shri Dilip Patel
18. Shri Lalubhai babubhai Patel
19. Shri Bheemrao B. Patil
20. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray

SECRETARIAT

Shri P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, *Joint Secretary*
Shri Vimal Kumar, *Director*
Shri Bhupendra Bhaskar, *Assistant Director*
Shri Anurag Ranjan, *Assistant Director*

WITNESSES

Representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs

1. Shri L. C. Goyal, Home Secretary
2. Shri Anoop Kumar Srivastava, Secretary (BM)
3. Shri H.K. Makwana, Joint Secretary (BM)
4. Shrimati Bina Prasad, Joint Secretary (C&PG)
5. Shri Sailesh, Joint Secretary (P-II)
6. Shri Rajit Punhani, Joint Secretary (J&K)
7. Shri M.A. Ganapathy, Joint Secretary (IS-I)
8. Shri S.K. Chakraborty, Addl. RGI
9. Shri Shambhu Singh, Joint Secretary (NE)
10. Shri V. Vumlunmang, Joint Secretary (PM)
11. Shri G.K. Dwivedi, Joint Secretary (F)
12. Shri. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary (FFR)
13. Shri Y.S. Sehwat, Chariman, LPAI
14. Shri J.S. Chaddha, Consulant, LPAI
15. Shri Pankaj Goyal, Director

Representatives of Ministry of External Affairs

Shrimati S. Ranganathan, Joint Secretary

Representatives of Ministry of Defence

Shri Naveen Kumar, Director

Representatives of Border Road Organisation (BRO)

1. Maj. Gen. Balraj Singh, OSD
2. Shri A.K. Dikshit, SE

Representatives of Assam Rifles

1. Lt. Gen. R.K. Rana, Director General, Assam Rifles
2. Capt. Abhishek Chhikara, ADC to DG, Assam Rifles

Representatives of Border Security Force (BSF)

1. Shri K.K. Sharma, ADG
2. Shri Rajeev Krishna, IG
3. Shri Pardeep Katyal, DIG

Representatives of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

1. Shri Krishna Chaudhry, DG
2. Shri R.K. Saini, IG

Representatives of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

1. Shri B.D. Sharma, DG
2. Shri Deepak Kumar, IG

Representatives of Coast Guard

Shri K.R. Suresh, DIG

Representatives of National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC)

1. Dr. A.K. Mittal, CMD
2. Ms. A. Sabeena, GM

Representatives of Central Public Works Department (CPWD)

1. Shri K.K. Peshin, Chief Engineer
2. Shri M.K. Sharma, Chief Engineer (IBBZ)

2.0 At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee to the meeting and apprised them the agenda of the day *i.e.* to consider and adopt the draft 187th and 188th Action Taken Reports and to seek further clarifications from the Home Secretary on the issues raised by the Members on the subject 'Border Management' in the light of the Committee's meeting held on 5th February, 2015 and the issue concerning the status on Indo-Bangladesh Border.

3.0 The Chairman, then, read out the contents of Rule 294 (1) of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) about declaration of

interests:-

Consideration of Draft 187th And 188th Action Taken Reports

4.0 * * *

4.1 The Committee then took up the draft 188th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 178th Report on Disaster Management in the country for consideration. After a brief discussion, the report was also adopted.

4.2 The Committee also authorized the Chairman to carry out any typographical/factual errors and if necessary further vetting.

{On the arrival of the witnesses}

IV. * * *

- 5.0 * * *
- 5.1 * * *
- 5.2 * * *
- 5.3 * * *
- 5.4 * * *
- 6.0 A Verbatim record of the Proceedings was kept.
- 7.0 The Committee then adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

