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 Government of India
 Ministry of Home Affairs
 (National Disaster Management Division)

North Block, New Delhi.
 November 30, 2004

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Coordination mechanism for Seismic Microzonation, Seismic Hazard Risk Assessment and Seismic Risk Mitigation Planning at all levels in the country.

A meeting was held in the Ministry of Home Affairs on 25th November, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Secretary(Border Management) to discuss coordination mechanism for Seismic Microzonation, Seismic Hazard Risk Assessment and Seismic Risk Mitigation Planning in the country.

2. Brief Record of discussions held in the meeting is enclosed for information and necessary action.

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Minutes of the meeting on developing a coordination mechanism for seismic micro-zonation, seismic hazard risk assessment and seismic mitigation action planning
Date: 25th November, 2004

A meeting was held in the Ministry of Home Affairs under the chairmanship of Secretary (BM) to discuss the coordination mechanism for seismic microzonation, seismic hazard risk assessment and seismic mitigation action planning at national, state and local levels. Representatives of DST, IMD, GSI and BIS attended the meeting. The list of participants is at Annexure I.

2. Secretary (BM) mentioned that seismic microzonation is extremely essential for developing master plan and detailed land use planning from hazard safety perspective, in urban and semi-urban clusters. In order to mitigate the hazard risks in these clusters where existing land use and the built environment are vulnerable, seismic micro-zonation, risk assessment and mitigation action planning has become a priority for the Government. There are scattered national and local efforts to undertake these studies without a clear agreement on the deliverables. Such studies must result in a decision support system so that mitigation action plans can be developed. Moreover there is no mechanism to guide and coordinate such an exercise.

3. Advisor Seismology DST mentioned that DST is supporting microzonation studies in three cities on pilot basis and a number of agencies are involved in these studies. During the Xth V-year plan, DST has approved setting up Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) in IMD, as a resource centre with a view to guide national endeavor in mitigating impacts of earthquakes. It is expected to provide earthquake risk related information products, catalyze development of effective risk assessment and mitigation approaches. Director Department of Mines informed that GSI has undertaken seismic micro-zonation of 22 cities under the Xth V-year plan. It was also mentioned that post-earthquake studies have also been carried out by GSI in the past.

4. It was noted that there are overlaps among on-going microzonation studies. The norms and methodologies for micro-zonation are also different

for different agencies involved in the studies. It had been earlier decided that BIS, on the basis of the report of the committee set up by IMD, would develop a code to put in place national norms, guidelines and methodologies for microzonation. There are other related codes also which need to be revised and BIS representatives were requested to expedite the same. It was decided that a separate meeting will be held with DG, BIS to expedite this.

5. It was also observed that there is no perspective plan for seismic microzonation in the country. Depending on the resource available and the mandate of the agencies concerned, studies are undertaken and in many cases, outcome of these studies may not meet the requirements for detailed mitigation action planning. It is necessary to have a perspective plan, objective criterion for selection of State/cities for these studies, clearly defined outputs for expeditious mitigation action and mechanism to synergize efforts of all concerned agencies at all levels. A national programme should be developed for seismic micro-zonation, seismic risk assessment and mitigation action planning which could target States/UTs/cities to be identified on the basis of probable seismic intensity, population and importance factor assigned to the locations. The programme framework should also indicate objectives, geographical coverage, outcomes, implementation strategy and arrangements, resource mobilization strategy, annual action plan and coordination mechanism at national, State and local levels. The National programme could then be presented to the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for necessary assistance to the agencies concerned.

6. In order to develop a **national programme for seismic microzonation, seismic risk assessment and mitigation action planning** in a time bound manner, it was decided to constitute an expert committee with representatives from DST, Department of Mines, IMD, IITs of Roorkee and Mumbai, GSDMA and MHA. The representative of MHA will be the convener of the committee. The committee may co-opt other national experts to participate in the exercise. The committee will submit its report within a month to MHA for further action.