

Together, towards a safer India

Monthly Newsletter of the Ministry of Home Affairs
(National Disaster Management Division) Government of India
Edition 8 - April 2004

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Setting-up/Strengthening of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) at the State and District Levels

With its emphasis on sustainable disaster risk reduction in all States/UTs by building capacities at all levels to institutionalize disaster risk management in the country, the Government has identified the setting-up/strengthening of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)/Control Rooms as a major focus area. The EOC, provided with workstations and communication equipment, will be a state-of-the-art resource centre for emergency response in the event of any disaster and will monitor hazards, disseminate accurate warning and coordinate response. This will obviate disruption of regular information-exchange about the disaster-related situation which impacts both the pace and level of rescue and relief activities.

The State Governments and UT Administrations are being assisted to set-up round-the-clock Emergency Operations Centres/Control Rooms in their State capitals and district headquarters to function as nerve centres for all disaster management activities as well as coordinate law and order situations. The EOCs at the national, state and district level are being networked with state-of-the-art communication equipment to be kept in a high state of alert. It is also emphasized that EOCs must have the inherent ability to survive and continue to perform during a disaster and must be housed in an all-hazard proof building.

The blueprints for the State/district level EOCs with their construction designs and specifications for requisite communication equipment have been circulated to the States. The tentative civil construction costs, detailed architectural and civil drawings and standard list of essential and add-on equipment for the State/district EOC have also been sent to the State Governments/UTs.

The Government of India have provided that funds made available to the State Governments for Modernisation of Police Forces can also be utilized for purchase of equipments for EOCs/Control Rooms. Provision has also been made that 10% of the CRF can be utilized for procurement of search and rescue, evacuation and communication equipments. In addition, assistance is being provided under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme.

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Preparedness measures being taken by the Government

Eight (8) battalions of Central Para Military Forces are being converted into specialist response teams. These battalions will be trained and equipped for responding to natural and man-made disasters. Two training institutions of CISF (NISA, Hyderabad) and ITBP (BTC, Bhanu, Chandigarh) have been developed as nodal institutions for training of trainers as well as the teams. Training of trainers has been completed and 16 teams consisting of 45 personnel each have already been trained.

The States have been advised to set up their own specialist teams for responding to disasters. Training of trainers will be organized at the CPMFs training institutes. Funds for equipping the teams will be provided from the Calamity Relief Fund.

Masons sensitization and training programme in Uttaranchal

The Department of Disaster Management, Government of Uttaranchal and the Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC) conducted a sensitization and training programme for Masons in Bageshwar District (23-27 March) and Augustmuni block of Rudraprayag District (28-31 March) to train them in disaster-resistant construction techniques. Local knowledge and construction practices with community involvement were the key focus points. Shri P.K.Das, Habitat Consultant, Orissa and a team of Development Technocrats (DTs) from Orissa provided technical inputs. The methodology and training component was developed as per recommendation of Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) headed



by the Principal Secretary (DM), Government of Uttaranchal and the sites identified in consultation with it. The selection of masons in each district was done on the basis of their skill, experience and acceptability in the community. In Bageshwar District, 26 masons representing all 3 blocks, 5 Junior Engineers from line Departments, two Architects and one Contractor participated.

An Indira Awas Yojana unit was also constructed as a technology demonstration unit.

In Augustmuni block, Rudraprayag district, 24 masons participated in hands-on training. After site selection by BDO, construction of four types of brick masonry viz. two types of brick masonry, concrete block masonry and stone masonry was done through hands-on training instead of constructing a whole IAY unit.

The masons shared their experiences with focus on multi-hazard resistant technology and listed the following :-

- (i) site selection and planning
- (ii) foundation with random rubble stone masonry in 1:6 cement-sand mortar with header stone in between.
- (iii) brick walling in English bond.
- (iv) demonstration of rat-trap bond in 1:6 cement-sand-mortar Flemish bond

(v) roofing with RCC.

The objective was to improve the construction quality and safety levels of buildings; identify master-trainers and develop locally suited manuals on alternate technologies.

Sensitization of Security Officers of nationalized banks in DM

On 24th December, 2003, a presentation was made at CAB, Pune, a training institute of RBI, to sensitize the Chief Security Officers of various nationalized banks on the need for initiating disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures. In order to build their knowledge, attitude and skills, a set of IEC materials was also sent to all Officers.

Subsequently, the Union Bank of India took the lead and incorporated Disaster Management as a subject in the Annual Training of its Security Officers in its Staff Training College in Bangalore. The Banks are being impressed upon to undertake following steps to minimize the impact of natural disasters on their functioning and to spread a culture of disaster awareness and mitigation:-

- (a) assessment and retrofitting, if required, of existing buildings;
- (b) loans for repair and renovation to be extended to include retrofitting;
- (c) grant of loans for constructing or buying a house only if it conforms to BIS Codes and local building bye-laws;
- (d) safety & security of bank data-base;
- (e) use of bank stationery for generating awareness on disaster mitigation and preparedness ;
- (f) training of bank staff in DM; and
- (g) development of a DM manual.

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Association of Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) volunteers in Disaster Management

The Ministry of Home Affairs has held meetings with the representatives of Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) with a view to exploring the possibility of associating NYKS in disaster mitigation and preparedness activities. NYKS, with its dynamic social service network up to village level, could play a significant role in mobilizing the community and generating awareness among them to work towards reducing the vulnerability to various natural disasters. It was felt that imparting training to a core group of 40-45 trainers drawn from different regions/zones would enable them to further train coordinators/ volunteers at district/village levels. The Youth Club volunteers would need to be familiarized with overall aspects of disaster vulnerability, mitigation, preparedness and response to enable them to serve as catalysts for community mobilization in the task of vulnerability reduction and disaster management.

It was decided that further interactions need to be held to develop an action plan, training modules for NYKS and identification of possible areas where NYKS could contribute.

IDRN UPDATE:

So far, 33 States/UTs and 535 districts have uploaded 65,191 records. All records have been filtered and irrelevant data removed. It also incorporates maps of States, UTs and districts. District-wise and quantitative reports can also be generated.

Progress of Work Under Go-IUNDP DRM Programme

● **UTTAR PRADESH:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh has initiated the process of updating of UP building bye-laws and has also issued Orders to ensure earthquake safety in all constructions. The government has made incorporation of earthquake-resistant construction features mandatory in all fresh constructions especially the infrastructural establishments like hospitals, cinemas, auditoriums, community halls, bus terminals, educational institutions etc. even with a height of less than 12 metres. It has also laid down requisite qualifications for Structural Engineers responsible for examining and supervising construction design and technique and ensuring that it conforms to BIS Codes and building bye-laws. They would also give a certificate to this effect.

● **TRIPURA:** The Revenue Department organized a four-day State-level Training of Trainers in association with SIPARD with participants drawn from state/district-level training institutes. During the training, manuals and preparedness plans were field tested and modified as per local context.

● **ARUNACHAL PRADESH:** A four-day state-level training programme, with emphasis on community based preparedness, was organized by Relief & Rehabilitation Deptt. in the ATI from 9th to 12th March and 36 master-trainers from various Departments and nodal officers from each programme district participated.

● **ASSAM:** Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Disaster Management, Government of Assam launched the

DRM Programme in Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts. Training of District Disaster Management Committee was completed and development of district DM Plans was initiated.

An AUSAID team visited Dhemaji district to see DRM programme activities and interacted with district administration and observed a mock-drill on flood preparedness.

IIT, Guwahati conducted a training of Engineers from all NE States on fundamentals of Earthquake Engineering covering aspects of seismicity, principles of earthquake-resistant design, lessons learnt from past earthquakes etc.

● **TAMIL NADU:** A two-day state-level consultation was held at SIRD, Chennai in association with Revenue Admn., DM and Mitigation Deptt. and ATI on DRM strategy and community based disaster preparedness wherein block/district functionaries and NGOs participated. A two-day district level training programme was organized at Ooty for DMMC members and block nodal officers. Five manuals were developed and field-tested for printing in Tamil.

● **MIZORAM:** Districts of Aizawl and Lawngtlai are in the process of reviewing and updating their District DM Plans. The Health Deptt. has drawn up a contingency plan for Civil Hospital, Aizawl and a mock-drill was also conducted to check its efficacy.

● **ORISSA:** As a pilot initiative, a ToT on psychological first-aid was conducted in collaboration with American Red Cross in 10 phase-I DRM districts during which 510 block level workers, including 321 women, were trained.

A Seminar on Emergency Health Management was organized during

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which all aspects of emergency health management were covered.

Do's and Don'ts posters on Heat Wave and Fire have been distributed to all 30 districts.

- **BIHAR:** The Deptt. of Relief & Rehabilitation has been renamed as "Department of Disaster Management" and the State DM Act has also been approved by the Cabinet and sent to the Assembly for approval. At the district level, instructions have been issued to concerned departments for mandatory compliance with BIS Codes and incorporation of EQ-resistant features in construction.

- **DELHI:** State DM Policy and DM Act have been drafted and are under consideration of Delhi DM Authority. State Search and Rescue Team has been constituted and procurement of equipment under CRF has been initiated. Fire Services Training College, Rohini has been nominated as the nodal agency for S&R training. The Government of Delhi has approved the pilot school safety and awareness programme in partnership with CBSE. The programme for training and capacity building of Engineers in Government departments is being undertaken for ensuring seismically safe construction.

- **GUJARAT:** A DRM orientation of Police officers was organized in Junagadh district and a booklet on do's and don'ts was also released. Apart from an overview of DRM programme, a presentation on Incident Command System was also made. To celebrate International Industrial Safety Day on 4th March, an awareness generation campaign was organized in Baroda with participation of school students and performance of a Gujarati folk dance on disaster preparedness.

Progress of Work under Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP)

An International Conference for Managing Seismic Risk was organized by Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal with support from Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Madhya Pradesh from 14th to 16th March with an aim to bring administrators and disaster management experts together to share latest developments and initiatives in the field of EQ risk management.

- **UTTAR PRADESH:** A meeting of Vice-Chairmen of 22 Development Authorities and Housing Boards was convened by the Housing Deptt. to discuss the steps to be taken for ensuring seismically safe construction practices. The Relief Commissioner called a meeting for formation of Search & Rescue Teams and representatives from Police, Fire, Medical, Irrigation, Housing and Transportation Deptts. participated. The Relief Commissioner stressed the need to develop a pool of resource persons in all these departments.

- **DHANBAD:** A workshop on EQ Vulnerability Reduction-Preparedness and Mitigation was organized by the District Administration in association with Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Mineral Area Development Authority (MADA) attended by 129 participants. A one-day sensitization of all ward officers was held in Dhanbad Municipality on 17th March with focus on EQ vulnerability and assessment and development of ward level preparedness plan.

- **SAMBALPUR:** A workshop on training of trainers was held in

Sambalpur and the participants, comprising of nearly 50 BDOs, SDOs, Executive Engineers and media personnel, were briefed about the seismicity of the region and the UEVRP initiative.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the District Collector, Indore and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 17th March for implementation of Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP) in Indore which falls in seismic zone III. Similarly, another MoU was also signed by District Collector, Jabalpur and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for implementation of UEVR Project in Jabalpur which also falls in seismic zone III. The objective is to generate awareness, develop EQ Preparedness and response plans and techno-legal regime, capacity building and networking knowledge on best practices.

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