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F.No.32-41/2003-NDM.I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(NDM Division)

North Block, New Delhi
Dated the 29th September,2003

To

1. Chief Secretaries (All States/UTs)
2. Relief Commissioners (All States/UTs)

Subject: Transparency in Relief Operations – Right to information.


Sir,

I am directed to say that schemes of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are primarily meant for providing relief to the people affected in the wake of natural disasters. It is also a fact that it is only the poor and weaker sections of the society who are affected the most in such disasters. As such, a major chunk of relief goes to these sections including the small and marginal farmers.

2. As relief is required to be accounted for, it is presumed that the State Governments maintain proper record of relief operations and relief distribution. It is every citizen's right to know the relief available to him in the event of disasters and what has actually been distributed. In fact, it should form a part of the citizens charter. Also transparency in relief operations and relief distribution is very critical to ensure that not only the relief operations and distribution is fair and just but also to ensure that there are no complaints or counter complaints in this matter.

3. In line with the Govt.'s policy of transparency, it is proposed that a list giving the details of beneficiaries with their name and address along with quantity/volume and quality of relief distributed, may be prepared ward-wise both for urban and rural areas and may be made available to the local representatives of the public in Panchayats and Municipalities and should also be displayed in the offices of Panchayats and Municipalities. The consolidated list should also be maintained and displayed at the block level/ Taluka level. These lists could be made available to general public on demand on nominal charges say of Rs.10/- for each list.

4. It is requested that the State Government may kindly take necessary action in this regard and a copy of the instructions issued may also be sent to this Ministry for information and record.


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Copy for necessary action to:-

1. Resident Commissioners at New Delhi – All States
2. PMO (Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, DS)
3. Cabinet Secretariat (Shri Anoop Mishra, Joint Secretary)

Copy to: OSD/PS to MOS(C)/Sr.PPS to HS/PPS to Secretary
(BM)/JS(NDM)/Director(NDM.I)/Master Folder