

Department of Revenue, Disaster Management Cell

MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18.03.2011 UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

List of participants is attached.

At the outset, Principal Secretary (Revenue) welcomed Chief Secretary and other participants and thereafter agenda items were taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25.10.2010 were noted and confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2. ACTION TAKEN ON DECISIONS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The action taken on the decisions of the previous meeting held on 25.10.2010 were reviewed as under:-

Item No. 1.2 Forecasting Disaster:

The meeting was informed that one piece of land has been identified at Dharamshala, Distt. Kangra and the IMD office at Shimla has been requested to depute someone to see the suitability of the land. The notification under Section 6 and 7 of the Land Acquisition Act has been issued on 8th December 2010 with respect to land identified at Shimla.

Regarding providing water marks, the I & PH department was again asked to provide the water marks of the major rivers of the State to the Central Water Commission for inclusion in their website.

The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) Dehradun has intimated that there is no direct mechanism where the State Government can get updates on seismic activities automatically. However there is a web page of Indian Meteorology Department where all the events that occur in India are listed daily. At the same time WIHG also has a network in Himachal and State Government can request WIHG to put particular departments on the mailing list to give data but that will not be daily because the institute is not receiving the data online. WIHG is in the process of establishing telemeters in all the seismic zones in the State and only then it may be possible to supply the data daily.

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However the seismic hazard zonation map for the State has been published in the Vulnerability Atlas of Himachal Pradesh prepared by the Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC). The action taken was noted.

The SEC took note of the action taken and it was decided as under:-

- i) That the acquisition proceedings be completed by April 2011.
- ii) The I & PH Department may provide the required information within 15 days.

Item No. 1. 3 Capacity building and training to key players:

The release of Rs. 5 lakh to the HP State Council for Science, Technology & Environment to organize TNA workshop was noted. The Principal Secretary (Environment, Science and Technology) informed that the TNA workshop is proposed to be organized in the last week of April 2011.

Item No. 1.5 Development of District Plan:

The meeting was informed that the districts were requested to prepare the district plans and the same have been received from Una, Bilaspur, Sirmaur, Mandi, Lahaul & Spiti, and Hamirpur districts; the remaining districts have been reminded. Regarding appointment of consultant, this is being brought as a separate item. The consultant will be requested to examine/improve the districts plans and wherever required NIDM's assistance will be obtained.

Further the meeting was informed that the draft State Disaster Management Plan prepared by SEEDS India has been circulated to the concerned Administrative Secretaries, HODs and all the Deputy Commissioners for their comments/ views, as was decided in the meeting held on 10.8.2010. Comments on the draft State Management Plan have been received from some departments and reminders to the remaining rest of departments have been issued. It was further informed that the SEEDS India had come up with a revised draft incorporating the suggestions of the departments.

In this context Chief Secretary explained the dictionary meaning of the word 'disaster' and stated that the quality of the District Disaster Management Plans (DDMPs)

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prepared by the districts, particularly the DDM Plan of Una which was examined by her was very poor. The plan didn't contain the information that should be there. She further observed that district Una witnesses the Baba Barbhag Singh Mela every year when the volume of devotees visiting the Chintpurni shrine is enormous. Stampede is a possible disaster in district Una but the plan doesn't make mention of it. After discussions, the following broad guidelines were decided to be issued for the preparation of the District Disaster Management Plans:-

- i) Each district to have focus areas on the major disasters it is vulnerable to, such as Kangra and Shimla districts which are more vulnerable to earthquakes while districts which have major temples are vulnerable to stampedes;
- ii) The roles of all the stakeholders have to be defined so that training can be imparted to them accordingly;
- iii) List of volunteers must be prepared by all the districts whose services can be utilized during emergencies;
- iv) Methods of communication to be clearly laid down;
- v) Roles and responsibilities of all the departments must be clearly defined;
- vi) Regular mock drills to test the efficacy of the DDM Plans should be carried out at regular intervals; and
- vii) The DDM Plan should be a document ^{that} every officer should read on his joining the district so that he is aware of the role of his department in case of a calamity striking the district.

The following decisions were also taken:-

- a) The remaining districts that have not submitted their DDM Plans should submit the same by June, 2011.
- b) The services of a Consultant may be taken to improve the plans prepared by the districts.
- c) The revised draft State Disaster Management Plan submitted by the SEEDS incorporating the feedback received be got further improved utilizing the services of the Consultant.

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Item No. 1.6: Assessment of vulnerable buildings:

The Principal Secretary (PWD) informed that any building which has more than 20% wood is classified as vulnerable to fire. So far 368 buildings have been identified in the State which are vulnerable to fire and earthquake. He further informed that 9 training courses had been conducted by HIPA and NIDM and 71 engineers and 273 masons had been trained. Further while designing buildings, earthquake protection features were being incorporated, but the same are not been incorporated during construction. Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Science and Technology) informed that HP State Council for Science, Technology and Environment is also conducting training of JEs, masons and architects. It was also felt that the building codes prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards for seismic zone IV and V should be considered for implementation in the State. Also the Urban Local Bodies should amend their building bye laws and incorporate earthquake resistant features in them. After discussions it was decided as under:-

- i) The PWD must ensure compliance of earthquake resistant features in construction of the government buildings;
- ii) The TCP and ULB departments should work out training requirements and required amendment of building bye laws;
- iii) Retrofitting of hospital buildings should be taken up; and
- iv) Strengthening of vulnerable building may be done by PWD.

Item No. 1.8. Identification of Nodal Officers:

The list of Nodal Officers appointed by various departments was noted. The meeting was informed that the matter of designing the website of the Disaster Management Cell has been taken up with the NIC. The SIO, NIC had intimated that the cost of website development would be between Rs. 2.0 to 2.5 lakh. He had further suggested that the SDMA may engage the services of a data entry operator through DOEACC, Shimla as per their agreement with Department of IT, HP for content preparation for the website development work.

It was decided that:-

- i) The Forest, Health and other departments and HPSEB Ltd. to nominate their Nodal Officers latest by 31st March, 2011;

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- ii) The Nodal Officers be imparted training in all relevant aspects of disaster management i.e. the law, rules, vulnerability of the State, measures to be taken in case of emergency etc. This should be completed within the next quarter;
- iii) Necessary funds and required manpower for the development of website as per the advice and requirement of the NIC be arranged; and
- iv) The website be designed latest by 30th June, 2011.

Item No. 2. 4. Financial position of State Disaster Management Authority.

The meeting was informed that funds stand released to the departments concerned which was noted/approved.

Item No. 2.7 Training Programmes for Disaster Management at Block Level

The release of funds to Director, HIPA amounting to Rs. 13.00 lakh for organizing trainings was noted as was the sanction of Rs. 35 lakh to the RD Department. It was also decided that the training material be got prepared for the purpose and training may be imparted at the Block level for Pradhans and Up Pradhans.

Item No. 2.11. Setting up Website of SDMA and Early Warning System

It was noted that that the matter had been discussed with the IMD authorities at Shimla and all the Divisional Commissioners, DCs and SPs, have been included in the mailing list of the IMD Shimla and they have been getting weather updates. Besides, the copies of the proceedings of SEC meetings were also sent to the DCs for taking necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. UTILISATION OF GIA RECEIVED UNDER THE 13TH FINANCE COMMISSION.

It was desired that the detailed proposal for utilization of the GIA be put up in the next meeting of the SEC.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE/CONTROL ROOM AT STATE HEADQUARTER AND REQUIREMENT FOR EOC

The matter was discussed in detail. It was observed that the Secretariat has a control room working 24 hours. In the districts the EOC can function from police control rooms, which can be strengthened. The integration of 108 Services with disaster management also needs to be ensured

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to take advantage of an existing communication system and 24x7 manning by doctors and police personnel at the Solan centre. The draft EOC document requires extensive revision to ensure that it is formulated keeping the State's situation in view.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. SETTING UP OF A STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (SDMA)

Principal Secretary (Revenue) stated that the law itself i.e. Disaster Management Act, 2005 requires us to set up the State Disaster Management Authority. Therefore, not setting up the State Disaster Management Authority would constitute violation of the Act. Secondly, most other States have set up their SDMA's. Thirdly, the recent disaster in Japan should 'jolt' us into setting up the SDMA. If any disaster happens in this State, we will have no defence. Therefore, he strongly suggests setting up the State's SDMA with a suitably senior IAS officer as its executive head duly supported with sufficient officers/staff and also funds. This needed to be done immediately. It was observed that SDMA had already been constituted but it lacked staff support for day to day working.

It was decided that proposals for the staff be put up in the first instance.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT RULES

The matter was deferred for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT

The appointment of Sh. R. K. Sood, whose case has already been cleared by Finance Department and in which Hon'ble CM's approval is on file, was approved. His appointment will be linked with the job and time frame. The terms be got approved on file from Chief Secretary and the SEC be informed in its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 CREATION OF STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

After discussion the need for such a force was felt for the State. The Principal Secretary (Home) was requested to examine the matter and inform the SEC in its next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9. UTILISATION OF FUNDS FROM CALAMITY RELIEF FUND (CRF)

The matter was discussed. The Principal Secretary (Home) was requested to look into the requirement of funds raised by the Additional Director General of Police cum Commandant General

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Home Guards & Civil Defence. The Revenue Department should recast the proposal keeping in view the discussion on this item.

ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10. OPENING UP OF BANK ACCOUNT OF THE SDMA

The Principal Secretary (Revenue) stated that no bank account of the SDMA has been opened as yet which is leading to difficulties. The SEC approved the opening of a bank account in the name of SDMA.

Concluding remarks:-

The Chief Secretary in her concluding remarks observed that there is urgent need of reviewing the areas which are vulnerable to floods and for identification of the flood plain in each basin so that people can be informed accordingly and no construction activity of permanent nature is allowed to take place there. She also desired that the next meeting of the SEC be called in the month of April 2011.

Principal Secretary (Revenue) thanked Chief Secretary and other participants for attending the meeting and giving their valuable suggestions.

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List of participants

1. Smt. Sarojini Ganju Thakur, Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Science and Technology)
2. Sh. P Mitra, Principal Secretary (Revenue)
3. Sh. Deepak Sanan, Principal Secretary (MPP & Power, UD)
4. Sh. Ajay Mittal, Pr. Secretary (Home)
5. Dr. P. C. Kapoor, Pr. Secretary (PW)
6. Sh. Narinder Chauhan, Principal Secretary (I & PH)
7. Sh. P.C. Dhiman, Principal Secretary (Health)
8. Sh. Ajay Bhandari, Secretary (GAD)
9. Ms. Nandita Gupta, Spl. Secretary (Revenue)
10. Sh. D C Rana, State Project Officer (GoI-UNDP) DRR Programme.
11. Sh. Prem Kumar, Under Secretary (Revenue)