Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners to review the status of preparedness for South West Monsoon 2006

State: Bihar

Date: 5th June 2006

Agenda No: I

STATE LEVEL REVIEW OF THE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS:

I) Review Meeting of the State & District level:

Number of meetings held at state & district level to review the flood preparedness as detailed below:

(A) Calamity Relief Committee Meeting:

The Calamity Relief Committee Meeting held on 3rd April 2006 chaired by the Chief Secretary and attended by state level officials from different govt. departments. A detailed discussion was held about flood preparedness and the concerned departments outlined the measures, they are taking and plan to take in future for flood preparedness.

- Disaster Management Department:

  1. A detailed guideline has already been issued to all the Divisional Commissioner, District Magistrates and other concerned departments for flood preparedness by the Department in the month of April, 2006.

  2. The Disaster Management Department also requested to various departments, especially to the Irrigation department to repair the weak and damaged embankments before the flood season.
3. It has also been directed by the department to ensure availability of
govt. boats for timely evacuation and relief distribution in the affected areas.

4. All the concerned District Magistrates directed to ensure storage of
food materials, human and animal medicines, and fodder directed at various
locations to enable quick delivery of service to the affected population.

❖ Food and Civil Supplies Department:

1. Decisions were taken by the Food & Civil Supplies department to
ensure food supply with additional allotment in the flood affected areas.

2. All the units of the Food Corporation of India and State Food
Corporations will be provided with sufficient food grains before the flood season.

❖ Agriculture Department:

Decisions were taken to widely disseminate the techniques
introducing flood resistance crops and ensure other preparedness measures to
minimize crops loss.

❖ Health Department:

1. Ensuring Stock piling of medicines for the affected population
along with Anti Snake Venoms in all the health centers before the flood season.

2. Ensuring availability of doctors, paramedical staff in all the health
centers of the affected areas.

3. Formation of task forces for timely checking outbreak of epidemics
in the affected area.

❖ Irrigation Department:

1. Ensuring repairing of damaged embankments along with desiltation
activities.
2. Clearance of water logging in the affected areas and ensuring proper maintenance of embankments during flood with necessary manpower.

- **Public Health Engineering Department:**
  1. Ensuring safe drinking water for the affected population during the flood season and repairing of all damaged tube wells before the flood season.

- **Home Department:**
  1. Ensuring maintenance of law and order, distribution of relief along with support of the administration in search, rescue and evacuation activities also.

- **Road Construction Department:**
  1. Ensuring communication to the affected areas for delivery of essential services as well as repairing of the damaged roads and communications.
  2. Ensuring communications through various methodologies through bailey bridges, and other mode of communications.

**B) Flood Preparedness Review Meetings by Chief Secretary:**

1. Weekly review meetings by the Chief Secretary with the heads of the line departments i.e. Disaster Management Department, Health, Irrigation, agriculture, miner Irrigation etc. have been started on each Friday since 5th May 2006

2. Till date 4 such meetings are held in which various measures and planning of different departments discussed to face the flood disasters in effective manner, department wise preparedness measures taken and other related issues are being discussed in such meetings. The meetings helped in finding on the spot solutions for various issues and also gave a momentum to the preparedness work at field level too.
C) Video Conferencing by the Chief Minister:

Along with regular review meeting at state level, a Video conference was organized on 12th May, 2006. The Video Conferencing was attended by the Chief Minister, top level state government officials and Divisional Commissioners/ District Magistrates of the flood and drought prone areas to discuss the preparedness measures being undertaken. The following directions and decisions were taken for ensuring effective flood preparedness at various levels:

1) Preparedness meeting at district, block and Panchayat level and preparation of action plan for flood preparedness.

2) Pre stocking of food and other materials in plenty to be ensured by the District Magistrates along with inviting tenders and other procedures for the same in time.

3) Essential human and veterinary medicines including anti-snake venom etc to be procured and kept ready in all the flood prone districts. Provision of medicines for Kalazar to be ensured by the health department for the district.

5) District Magistrates along with the irrigation departments should ensure supervision and repairing of weak embankments before the flood season.

6) Arrangements of Bailey Bridges and other temporary communication systems should be made available to the flood affected districts.
7) All District Magistrates should send their requirements to the Disaster Management Department through the concerned Divisional Commissioners for necessary support for meeting the flood situations.

**D) District level preparedness review meetings:**

At the district levels too review for flood preparedness are being organized by District Magistrates. The reports of such meetings are regularly received by the department for necessary follow up from the state level.

**II) Flood Instructions by the Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Bihar:**

Flood instructions have been issued by State Government to all the Districts and concerned departments for ensuing flood preparedness state. Strategic suggested to stake holders for pre, during & post flood preparedness.

**Pre Flood Preparedness:**

- A review meeting of concerned official should be organized at district level to ensure preparedness at all level in which the following measures should be taken up to expedite flood preparedness.
- District Magistrate to ensure functionality of rain gauge and to ensure the database of tentative flooding of the possible areas after water release from upper catchment areas of the district.
- Ensure active role and participation of DDMC/BDMC/PDMC & VDMC in the district and organize mass awareness generation for flood preparedness.
- Ensure identification & repairing of weak embankments before flood through concerned departments.

- Identify safe shelters for evacuating affected population especially women, children, old and infants along with provision of food and fodder for the cattle.

- To ensure road connectivity during flood, repairing of damaged road should be done on priority basis.

- Inventory of Govt. & private Boats at all levels for ensuring timely evacuation of the affected population. Proposals for purchase of new boats as per requirement should be requisitioned to disaster management department before 20th May 2006 through Divisional Commissioner. Rate for private boats deployment also has to be finalized beforehand.

- Stock piling of food grains should be completed before the monsoon season for free relief distribution to affected people. SFC & FCI to ensure sufficient stocking of food materials in strategic locations. The assessment of requirements of food grains should be done by District Magistrate on the basis of past experiences.

- Tender & agreement for procurement of relief materials should be organized according to rules & regulations of Finance Department, GoB. Divisional Commissioner authorized to complete entire process before 10th June 2006.
- Identifying of relief centres and providing the list of these to the elected representatives for mass information for the affected population.

- Stocking of life saving drugs, AVS, animal medicines & fodder has to be ensured by the District Magistrate on the basis of past experiences of flood in the district. Again verification of deputation of medical officers, Para medical staffs & Veterinary doctors for each health centers & sub centers. Again mobile health team has to be formed and kept ready so that immediate health facilities can be provided to the affected populations.

- Ensure deputation of trained Home Guards for assisting the administration in the relief distribution as well as maintenance of law and order in the shelter places.

- Temporary shelter should be established in Schools/Panchayat Buildings/Community buildings situated at high land to protect flood affected people from rainfall & sunlight.

- Repairing of defunct Hand pumps & Water supply systems should be ensured with the help of PHED officials. Other water system supply system should be developed in which areas where no existing resources are available.

- District Magistrate should also ensure the regular functioning of District & Block level flood control room round the clock for quick information flow.
Water Resource Department will make provision of necessary materials to check breaches during heavy flooding.

During Flood:

- Forecasting of Information on flow of water to be ensured.
- Arrangement of Rescue teams / Human resource for relief distributions and Health services in the affected areas.
- Distribution of relief materials as per rules and guidelines.
- Rescue & evacuating the affected population & arrangement permanent shelter.
- Safe drinking water supply for affected populations.
- Necessary arrangements for security & patrolling of embankments by taskforces formed by the district administration.
- Ensuring government order on deployment of boats during the flood for various purposes.
- Inventory of related departments should be prepared and updated and sharing the same with the Disaster Management Department for necessary action.
- Quick information of the affected population and weekly damage report to be submitted to the department on timely basis.
- List of beneficiaries for relief has to be prepared with the help of PRIs, NGOs and other volunteers for smooth relief distribution.
• Wide dissemination of the distributed materials has to be done at the block and Panchayat level for public information. The Relief Monitoring team will guide and direct the relief distribution in concerned areas at all levels.

Post Flood:

- Immediate restoration of communications damaged by flood.
- Repairing of embankments and the irrigation channels and roads damaged fully and partially and necessary allotment for repairing of the same.
- To take effective step to check epidemics.
- To provide agriculture input affected by flood.

III) Flood Control Orders- 2006 by Govt. of Bihar:

Flood control orders- 2006 have been issued to all concerned government departments at State and field levels. These orders (annexed –I) contains necessary instructions under subheads General Instructions, patrolling on check dams, community co-operations, help from armed forces, communication, flood assistance maternal, weekly reporting, evacuations etc. The orders also give necessary instructions for Central Flood Control Cell at HQ levels separately.

IV) List of Activities for 22 Line department of State Government for Disaster Management:

A document containing list of activities to face any situation during four stages of disaster (i.e. before disaster stage, warning stage, disaster stage and
after disaster stage) for 22 government departments has been prepared.

This document has been sent to all concerned department for appropriate actions. The departments covered in the document are:-

1. Agriculture Department
2. Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department
3. Building Construction and Housing Department
4. Education Department
5. Energy Department
6. Environment and Forest Department
7. Finance Department
8. Food and Civil Supply Department
9. Health Department
10. Home Department
11. Industry Department
12. Department of Labour
13. Information and Public Relation Department
14. Planning and Development Department
15. Public Health Engineering Department
16. Road Construction Department
17. Rural Development Department
18. Science and Technology Department
19. Transport Department
20. Urban Development Department
21. Water Resource Department
22. Welfare Department

V) Preparedness by Line Departments:

Various line departments having strategic role in flood management are working as per their action plan and in close coordination with the Disaster Management Department. Various departments like Irrigation, Agriculture, Health, Food and Civil Supply, Road Constructions, PHED etc are preparing their contingency plans and working on it.

Agenda No: II

Incident and Monitoring Report:

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**Agenda No: III**

**Suggestions and issues to be raised in the Meeting**

**for effective flood Management in the State:**

- **Strengthening of Early Warning System:**

  The Department receives reports from Central Water Commission, Irrigation Department and remote sensing data from Bihar Remote Sensing Agency along with flood report from the affected districts. The following steps may be taken for effective flood monitoring and management and timely response:

  - **Strengthening of Early Warning mechanisms:** The database sent by irrigation department is basically on the rainfall and the amount of water released. This does not give a clear picture of possible inundation of areas within a certain span of time and possible districts in the catchment areas of the region which will be affected. A mechanism needs to be developed to forecast the possible
areas to be affected after certain period on the basis of release of water from
the catchment areas so that necessary preparedness planning and response
mechanisms can be expedited. A consultant Mr Sarpotdar who is a
communication expert in the Ministry of Home Affairs on early warning was
consulted to make a plan for effective warning mechanisms in the flood
affected districts of the state. A proposal has also been submitted in this regard
to department. Necessary guidelines may given for make it more effective for
better flood management.

- **Satellite Images of Flood:** The Remote Sensing Agency provide satellite
  imagery of inundation areas with flood which gives an overview of the flood
  affected areas of the state. But this image should be supported with analysis
  and database to enable the department for effective and timely decision making
  process on quick response.

- **Timely Warning:** There should be timely information of water discharge from
  the catchment areas which will help the district and state administration to
  make necessary provisions for rescue, evacuation as well as providing timely
  relief.

- **Coordination with Nepal:** As floods in Bihar is normally due to the heavy
  rainfall and water discharges from across the border necessary coordination
  may be established and timely information about rainfall water discharge may
  be shared with the state for taking up necessary steps for better flood
  management.

- **Special provision in the CRF:** In the CRF norms provisions are there to
  provide fodder to the cattle in the camps and provide transportation only if the
  cattle are in the villages. So revisions should be made to provide fodder to
  cattle when they are not in the camps as well.
Inclusion of Cold wave, Hotwaves & Hailstorms in CRF: As the state is affected with cold wave and many deaths are occurred due to the hailstorms also provisions should be made under the CRF for these disasters as well.

Revision of 3(I) & 8(a) I & II of the CRF Norms: Revision of amount of rainfed areas from Rs 1000/- to Rs 2500/- should be done. Again revision of allotment for assistance for repair and restoration of damaged houses under the category pucca house should be made from Rs 1000/- to 25000/- or equivalent to the Indira Awas House which ever is lower. For reconstruction of kuchha house the amount should be revised from Rs 1200/- to Rs 10000/- to facilitate construction of house for the affected family.

Annexure-I(A)

Total Number of Flood Prone Districts in the State:

1) Saran  2) Saran  3) Gopalganj  4) Muzaffarpur
5) Sitamarhi  6) Sheohar  7) East Champaran  8) West Champaran
9) Vaishali  10) East Champaran  11) Madhubani  12) Samastipur
13) Saharsa  14) Supaul  15) Madhepura  16) Purnea
17) Araria  18) Kishanganj  19) Katihar  20) Munger
21) Begusarai  22) Khagaria  23) Lakhisarai  24) Bhagalpur
25) Patna       26) Bhojpur       27) Buxar

Annexure – I (B)

_Total No of Districts affected by flood in 2005_

1) Muzaffarpur       2) Sitamarhi       3) East Champaran
4) West Champaran       5) Darbhanga       6) Madhubani
7) Samastipur       8) Saharsa       9) Supaul
10) Katihar       11) Khagaria       12) Bhagalpur

Annexure II (A, B, C)

_Total number of flood prone rivers that caused flood during 2005_

A) Ganga       B) Sone       C)Punpun       D) Ghaghra
E) Gandak       F) Burhigandak       G) Adhwara groups       H) Kamla Balan
I) Koshi       J) Mahananda
Agenda Points for Discussions to be held on 6th June 2006

➢ Notifications of dates for different provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and power of State Government to make rules under the Act:

After receiving of the National Disaster Management Act from the central government, the Bihar state has framed rules and it has been sent to the Law Department for necessary vetting. Once it is vetted by the law department it will be cleared by the finance department and will go to the Chief Minister for final approval. The Disaster Management rules are expected to be effective soon in the soon after necessary formalities.

➢ Constitution of State Disaster Management Authority:

With regard to the setting up of DM Authority, it has to be constituted under the provision of newly enacted Disaster Management Act 2005 and rules made by Central as well as state government. Further the State and District Disaster Management Authorities once come into existence will also make its own guidelines.

➢ Re-designation of Nodal Department as Department of Disaster Management:
The name of the department has been renamed as Department of Disaster Management with government notification and it is in force since 2004.

- **Specialist Response Teams:**

  A 12 member team has been identified by the Home Department, Govt of Bihar and a training institute has been also identified for the state level Search & Rescue Training. After necessary training to these state level 12 member teams, they will train another 60 personnel of Bihar Military Police and one battalion BMP-9 has been identified for the same. Necessary actions are being taken by the Home Department for providing training to these 12 identified members. 10% of the CRF may be utilized for procurement of necessary equipments.

- **Establishment of State & District Emergency Operations Centres:**

  Under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme funds have been allocated to establish/construction of 1 State EOC and 14 District EOCs in the programme districts. Out of the 14 districts the construction of EOCs in 10 districts is completed and made operational as well. Construction of rest EOCs are in progress and will be made operational before the coming flood. Again the toll free no: 1077 has also been installed in many of the District Control Rooms for quick information disseminations. After lots of efforts by the department a site has been identified in the Secretariat premises for construction of State EOC and the work will start soon. In the mean time the existing control room will be made operational in the current flood season.
and necessary modifications will be done soon. Regarding communication to be provided to the EOCs from 10% of the annual allocations under the CRF, necessary steps will be taken at the earliest for procurement of Satellite phones and other communication equipments.

➢ **Adoption of Model Building Bye laws, town and country Planning:**

After various reviews and consultations at the state level, the Building Bye Laws of the state has been revised and it has got government approval as well. The state has also organized one consultation with BMTPC also last year and the recommendations of the expert committee are taken care of while preparing the Bye laws of the state.

➢ **India Disaster Resource Network:**

The IDRN database is being uploaded by the NIC and necessary information are being provided by various line departments and other agencies. Till date a total no of 3406 records have been uploaded in all the districts of the state and this has helped the district administration in channelising various resources in the last years flood and the flood of 2004.

➢ **Training of In-service Engineers and Architects:**

Many of the Engineers from various departments of the state had been trained in various IITs of the state on Earthquake resistivity of structures and plans are also made to provide necessary funds to the 3 State Resource Institutes of the state for undertaking training of Engineers and Architects also.

➢ **Formulation of Disaster Management Plans:**
Out of the 14 DRM Districts of the state a total no of 10 District Disaster Management Plans have been completed, approved and shared under the GoI-UNDP DRM Programme. Rest 04 DM Plans will be completed before the current flood season which will help the administration to effectively prepare for a disastrous situation. Besides this a total no of 102/201 Block Disaster Management plans, 724/2328 Panchayat plans have been prepared till date. Efforts are being made to expedite the same after the completion of the Panchayat election in the state. The State Disaster Management Plan preparation is in progress. Standard Operating Procedures for the 22 line departments are also enlisted and being circulated for better coordinated strategy for Disaster Management.

➢ Conversion of State Relief Code into State DM Code:

No substantial progress has been made in this front to conversion of the Relief Code to the DM Code.

➢ Strengthening of Disaster Management Cells in State Level Training Institute:

The Administrative Training Institute has a Disaster Management Centre which provides training on various Disaster Management aspects to various government functionaries and other stakeholders of the state and district level. Though there is no full time faculty member in the DM cell of ATI, officials from other departments are nominated to coordinate the training programmes in the field of Disaster Management.

➢ Specific Hazard Specific Plans:
Besides Multi hazard preparedness planning other hazard specific plans are also being prepared by districts affected like drought, fire etcetra.

➢ **Disaster Management Curricula in School Education:**

CBSE has included Disaster Management in its course curriculum from class- VIII to X and it is applicable in the state also. Again the disaster management has been included in the High School curriculum for class-X of the School Examination Board under the Environmental Sciences.