

**PRE MONSOON PREPAREDNESS MEETING CONDUCTED BY CHIEF SECRETARY**

The Chief Secretary, Tmt.S.Malathi, I.A.S., conducted a detailed review meeting to-day (5-10-2010) and reviewed the preparedness of various departments and agencies in view of the ensuing North East Monsoon. The Revenue Department is the Nodal Department for the State for disaster management and managing natural calamities. The Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been designated as the State Relief Commissioner for this purpose. In to-days' meeting, the Secretaries and senior officers of related departments, like Revenue, PWD, Home, Finance, Transport, Highways, Food&Cooperation, Health, Fisheries, Rural Development,, Municipal Administration & Water Supply Agriculture and officers from Army,Navy and Air Force, Fire & Rescue Services and Meteorology Department attended. The Secretary, Revenue (K.Dhanavel, IAS) welcomed the Officers and briefed about the preparatory activities that has been undertaken at State level and District level in view of the ensuing monsoon. Contingency plans have been prepared by all the 32 Districts and communicated to the Government. All the District Collectors have conducted the District Level Coordination Committee Meeting. Mock drills have been organized by all the District Collectors at block level and villages in coastal area. A State Level Emergency Operation Centre has been established at Ezhilagam, Chennai and a toll free telephone number of 1077 has been operational from 1st of October for receiving information on disaster. Similarly Control Rooms have been established in all the districts with a toll free telephone No.1077 operational round the clock. Under the National Disaster Management Authority, one battalion of trained and well equipped personnel were stationed at Arakkonam, which will be available for any emergency situation at short notice.

2. The Chief Secretary reviewed the preparedness and the availability of adequate rescue and relief materials with various departments and agencies during the meeting. Chennai Corporation was specifically instructed to arrange to prevent the clogs in drainages during floods and to ensure supply of portable water and also check up the sewerage lines in coordination with Metro Water.

The Urban local bodies and the Health Department have been instructed to keep adequate medicines and vaccines to prevent spread of any epidemics. Sites for cooking and food supply relief centres and temporary shelters have also been identified by the local bodies for meeting the situation. The rescue boats, sand bags, power saws and other equipments have also been arranged to be mobilized by the concerned department and agencies. During the meeting it was decided that the Fire & Rescue Service Department will be provided with an assistance of Rs.5.50 crores for the procurement of various equipments for handling the emergency situation. The officers from Navy and Air Force and the Commandant of National Disaster Response Force have assured that their services will be made available in case of any emergency situation at short notice. Instructions have also been issued to all the District Collectors and the Panchayat Raj Institutions have been sensitized on disaster management in view of the ensuing monsoon.

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