

Speech of Hon'ble Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management Thiru. K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran in All State Disaster Management Ministers Meeting chaired by Hon'ble Union Home Minister Thiru. Amit Shah held on today (13.06.2023) at New Delhi.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister,

Hon'ble Ministers of Disaster Management of various States and Union Territories,

Respected officers of National Disaster Management Authority and other States,

I am very happy to participate in the meeting proposed to discuss the review of preparedness measures for South West Monsoon and other important aspects of Disaster Management

In the recent past, occurrence of Disasters have become more frequent and their impact is very high, forcing the disaster management machinery to be on alert at all times, which has become a new normal.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, during South West Monsoon Season, Floods and Heavy Rains have resulted in crop damages, breaches in river/ canals, heavy rains accompanied by lightning and thunder, loss of lives and landslides have also occurred. During this season, drinking water scarcity and crop loss due to drought condition is also experienced due to insufficient rainfall.

The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the State Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, the Revenue Administration and Disaster Management Department headed by the State Relief Commissioner and the District Disaster Management Authority headed by the District

Collector are well prepared to handle any kind of exigency during a Disaster situation.

We are in touch with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Disaster Management Authority and are also following all the guidelines to deal with disasters effectively. The Tamil Nadu Government has furnished details in respect of 14 items regarding the state of preparedness for the ensuing southwest monsoon. I would like to use this opportunity to put forth the following requests in this forum: -

Technical Guidelines for utilization of funds under State Disaster Mitigation Fund and National Disaster Mitigation Fund constituted based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission may be issued immediately.

The overall responsibility of Disaster Management rests with the State Government and hence the operational procedures / Guidelines for implementation of projects should be adequate to fulfill the needs of the state.

As per the Guidelines the funds required for Mitigation works of the state would be made available under National Disaster Mitigation Fund only after exhausting the funds available under State Disaster Mitigation Fund. The above Guideline may be modified and funds may be released under National Disaster Mitigation Fund to the State Government on approval of the Projects by the State.

Guidelines for special projects namely Drought, lightning and thunder mitigation, modernization of Fire and Rescue Services shall be issued early and that the Project Proposals under the above special projects shall be approved by Government of India for its expeditious implementation.

Limitations Under State Disaster Response Fund

While the funding windows of State Disaster Response Fund & State Disaster Mitigation Fund are not interchangeable there could be a flexibility re-allocation within the sub windows of the respective funds and such re-allocation shall not exceed 10% of the total allocation of that sub window. The above restriction may be relaxed.

In a year not more than 50% of State Disaster Mitigation Fund will be utilized for measures / projects to mitigate risks from a single hazard. However, this stipulation may be relaxed by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations of Sub Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC), based on the written request of the State with proper justification. As Tamil Nadu is prone for Multiple Hazards the condition that the permission of Government of India for allocation of more than 50% of SDMF for a single hazard shall be relaxed.

Provision shall be made to utilise funds for recovery and reconstruction from other funding windows of State Disaster Response Fund namely Relief & Response, Preparedness and Capacity Building as the allocation for Recovery and Reconstruction is only limited.

Thank You

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