

Methodology

The entire work of the High Powered Committee has been compiled into two main documents:

- I High Powered Committee Report
- II National Disaster Response Plan

KEY ISSUES

In order to prepare a comprehensive and cohesive response plan for the Centre, other important issues such as the disaster profile, Government policies and mitigation measures also have to be taken into account. These issues have been dealt with, in detail, in the Recommendations within HPC Report.

Disaster Profile of India

The unique geo-climatic and social condition of India makes this region particularly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters occur with unfailing regularity and despite better preparedness, the economic and social costs on account of these disasters are on the increase each year. This section of the HPC Report consists of:

The National Disaster Response Plan has evolved as a document that focuses only on Response actions and provides links to other documents necessary for the effective overall management of disasters. The nature and extremity of a disaster demand that a separate plan has to be focused only on the immediate quick response activities thereby initiating a culture of Quick Response.

- i) Past records
 - Frequency
 - Dates/Years
 - Extent of damage
- ii) Vulnerable areas of the country
 - Macro-zonation according to geological setting.
 - List of vulnerable states and districts according to specific disasters.
 - Percentage of vulnerability of the country in context to each disaster.
 - Risk assessment according to the socio/economic conditions of urban and rural areas (metros, cities, towns, etc.)

Detailed checklists/forms for release of equipment and manpower and handbooks for all personnel/ministries/agencies involved in the immediate response activities recommended in the plan are integral and imperative for the complete and comprehensive view of the NDRP (National Disaster Response Plan) document.

National Policy on Disaster Management Plan

This section enumerates the policies that have been developed for the management plan in view of the lessons learnt from previous disasters. This includes policies developed for mitigation and preparedness. Apart from the National Calamity Management Act, it makes a note of the policies suggested by the Tenth and the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Mitigation/ Developmental Activities

This section forms an important part of the entire plan as the effectiveness of the response activities primarily depend upon the preparedness achieved during non-disaster times. In the past, the approach towards coping with the effects of disaster has been post-disaster management mainly involving actions like evacuation, search and rescue, rehabilitation, etc. Quite often the occurrence of natural disasters used to be relegated to history till the next one occurred. IDNDR has effectively shifted the focus from rescue and relief towards preparedness and mitigation. The damage due to disasters can be minimised by the preparation of a

Preparedness plan. The L0 stage suggested in the High Powered Committee interim reports will be utilised for all preparedness plans and activities. Section 4 of the plan deals with all national level L0 activities.

HOW TO USE THE DOCUMENT

This section of the National Response Plan contains the activities and responsibilities of only the 'Immediate or Quick Response'. The document contains the procedures and formats for activities that need to be carried out during an L3 disaster. Recommended support documents specific to each disaster will provide a modular character to the document. Detailed checklists, forms for release of equipment, manpower and handbooks for all personnel/ministries/agencies involved in the immediate response activities recommended in the plan are integral and imperative for the complete and comprehensive view of the NRP (National Response Plan) document. These support documents will have to be specialised and therefore will be developed by the respective ministries/agencies.

ABOUT THE DOCUMENT

The response plan needs to outline responsibilities, response, activities and exact sequence of events to be followed after the declaration of an L3 disaster by supporting checklists of responsibilities and actions, other handbooks and formats for the complete execution of the plan. Most of the checklists and handbooks require detailed enlisting of specific tasks that will have to be detailed out by respective agencies and ministries depending upon the technical nature of the task. In this document the response mechanisms, especially quick response mechanisms, have been outlined along with a listing of checklists, and handbooks that will be required for the detailed enumeration of each task as follow-

up actions to this plan. This document broadly contains the following L3 Response Mechanisms:

- ◆ Point wise explanation of the mechanisms and responsibilities of each concerned department (along with related handbooks of responsibilities)

- ◆ Graphical/Chart representation of the mechanism

The following document only deals with the 'Response Plan'. The sections on profile, policies and mitigation activities for disaster management have been dealt with in brief in the High Powered Committee Report.

