

## CHAPTER - VII

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Management Information System

Management Information System for tracking vulnerability to Starvation and Malnutrition came into force in the State from the 2<sup>nd</sup> fortnight of January, 2003 basing on the observation of Supreme Court directives out of Writ Petition (Civil) No.196/2001. It is the duty of each State to prevent deaths due to starvation or malnutrition & ensure food security to the people. Keeping in view the orders of the Apex Court, Special Relief Commissioner, Orissa introduced a format for monitoring malnutrition and hunger for ensuring Food Security etc. with emphasis on following cases.

- i) For vulnerable Population.
- ii) In scarcity Pockets.
- iii) In Epidemic Prone Areas.
- iv) Of Individual with prolonged Illness.
- v) For mothers and Children with malnutrition.

Basing on this aspect district authorities of the State are submitting required information to the Special Relief Commissioner, Orissa twice in a month i.e. at the ending of each fortnight. On receipt of the information from the Collectors of the State, we are compiling, analyzing and evaluating the data as per the prescribed indicator. After analysis of the feedback as monitoring authority, we request concerned Departments of Govt. and Collectors for making suitable interventions on the feedbacks from the field. Thus for effective management of disasters, the MIS has proved to be a essential tool.

### ISSUES & CHALLENGES IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

#### 1. Lightning Deaths: A Natural Disaster

A good no. of people succumbs to death due to lightning in the State every year. Lightning or Thunder stroke is a natural phenomenon and prevention of its occurrence is beyond human control. But this being not included in the list of natural disasters under CRF, assistance out of CRF can not be administered. The year wise deaths due to lightning for last few years as given below will amply explain the gravity of the situation.

Year	No. of Lightning Deaths
2001	183
2002	220
2003	221
2004	277

#### *Ex-Gratia Assistance to the Victim*

It is an irony that death of poor people due to lightning can not be compensated as ex-gratia assistance as in cases of death due to other calamities like flood, fire, cyclone & earthquake. Hence, this may be considered for inclusion in the list of natural disasters for which relief can be administered out of CRF.

#### **2. Heat Wave**

The climatic changes, rapid urbanization and erosion of forest has been major cause of recent heat wave conditions. It has become a menace during the hard summer causing insurmountable human suffering. The poor people, farmers and workers suffer from sunstroke and lose their lives. The State of Orissa has been facing serious heat wave conditions during past years since 1998. Hence, heat wave condition may be considered as natural calamity with award of Ex-gratia assistance to the next of kin of the deceased persons succumbs to the calamity.

#### **3. Maintenance of MPCS**

97 numbers of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters are being constructed along the coastline after the event of supercyclone-99. These large sized buildings being located within 10 Kms of the seashore will require maintenance every year as these buildings are likely to be affected by saline effect. There should be provision of fund in the CRF guideline for maintenance of these buildings.

#### **4. Flood Shelters**

CRF guideline should provide support for construction of Flood Shelters on the bank of major rivers.

#### **5. Exemption of Examination and Tuition Fess**

After occurrence of a major calamity the people suffer great financial loss and the fragile economy of the poor people is shattered. It is imperative that they face financial hardship to pay the examination and tuition fees for their children. Hence this item of expenditure should be included in the norms.

## **6. Boat Accidents**

Ex-gratia payment to bereaved families of deceased persons due to boat accident during normal time while ferrying and transporting may be included in the norms of expenditure. Mainly, Boat Accidents occur due to turbulent water in the rivers and rough weather conditions.

## **7. Basin Management**

A special task force has been constituted by the Central Govt. mainly to look into flood problems in the States, which are situated in Brahmaputra-Ganga Basin. For this purpose a special fund with a corpus of Rs.10, 000 crore has been earmarked by the Central Govt. for flood protection in the States. But Orissa has not been included in this scheme. The State being the most calamities prone deserves immediate consideration in this regard.

These above issues have been already place before Govt. of India for consideration.

## **CONCLUSION**

Although the state had not encountered any major natural calamities during the period under report, still natural calamities had not left the state untouched. Medium floods had occurred in two /three districts and drought in some parts of the state affecting ten districts partly. The management of these disasters was comprehensive to mitigate the impact. Long Term Mitigation measures are need of the day to combat disasters like Droughts and Floods. The Calamity Relief Fund does not provide for the same and the financial position of the State Government does not permit to venture into those areas. This dichotomy continues and victims are the poor vulnerable population of the State. The recurring disasters have lot to contribute for slow growth rate and delayed development in the State.

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