

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

REVIEW OF NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

**COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES
(2021-22)**

THIRTEENTH REPORT

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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(Presented to Lok Sabha on04th April, 2022)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2020-2021)

Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat – Chairperson

Members

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3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri Sudharshan Bhagat
5. Shri Pradan Baruah
6. Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan
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20. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
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22. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
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26. Shri Pinaki Misra
27. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
28. Shri Kesineni Srinivas
29. Shri Ajay Bhatt
30. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma

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Members

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30. Shri Kesineni Srinivas

** Elected as a Member of Estimates Committee vide Bulletin Part-II no. 2897 dt. 29.07.2021

Secretariat

1. Smt Anita B. Panda - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Muraleedharan. P - Director
3. Shri Gagan Kumar - Committee Officer
4. Shri Srikanth Singh R. - Assistant Committee Officer

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Thirteenth Report on the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force'

2. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was constituted in 2006 under the provision of Section 44 (1) of Disaster Management Act, 2005 by conversion of existing 08 Battalions of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) [02 each from Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)] to provide specialized response for rescue and relief in case of disasters-natural and manmade, deployment in case of impending disasters and also assistance to civil authorities in distribution of relief material during/after disaster.

3. The Committee on Estimates (2020-21) selected the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force' for in-depth examination and report to the House. The Committee on Estimates (2021-22) continued with the examination of the subject.

4. In this report, the Committee have dealt with various issues like Organization and Role of NDRF, Financial and Physical Performance including Budget Allocation, Issues related to development of Infrastructure for NDRF Battalions and Regional Response Centres and Review and Upgradation of Disaster response Equipment authorized to NDRF. The Committee have analyzed these issues/points in detail and have made Observations/Recommendations in the report.

5. The Committee held the sitting on 08.04.2021, to take oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Report on the subject at their sitting held on 31.03.2022.

6. The Committee wish to place on record their sincere thanks to the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs, who appeared before them and placed their considered views on the subject and furnished the information required in connection with the examination of the subject.

7. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in Part-II of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
31 March, 2022
10 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

CHAPTER I

Introductory

Disaster is an emergency of severe concern and magnitude having long-time effect, damaging human resources, economic resources, environment and human & animal lives, which, generally, are beyond a tolerable capacity and routine procedures and resources.

1.2 In this connection, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in their standard operating procedure for deployment of NDRF approved in 2014, states as under:

“India has traditionally been vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions and it has, of late, like all other countries in the world, become equally vulnerable to various man-made disasters. The periodicity and intensity of disasters have increased manifold in the last few decades. In many disasters, human and economic losses could have been minimized by taking preventive, mitigation and preparedness measures. Anti-national elements find terrorism easy to adopt and cost-effective. A terrorist attack involving Nuclear, Biological and Chemical agents differs from a normal terrorist attack as it results in specific effects on health and can cause fatal injuries, creates panic, affects the morale of the community, and lowers its faith in the government. The important ingredients of an effective response system are integrated institutional arrangements, state of the art forecasting and early warning systems, failsafe communication system, rapid evacuation of threatened communities, quick deployment of specialized response forces and coordination and synergy among various agencies at various levels in dealing with any disaster.

1.3 Two national disasters in quick succession in the past, that is the Odisha Super Cyclone (1999) and Gujarat Earthquake (2001) brought about a paradigm shift from the erstwhile relief-centric approach of the Government to a holistic approach with emphasis on prevention, mitigation and preparedness, aimed to conserve developmental gains and minimize loss of lives, livelihood and property. As per the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of India (GoI) took a defining step in this direction by enacting the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Under the Act, an institutional framework was created at National, State and District level in 2006.

1.4 At National level, three important institutes / organizations were set up namely National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster.

1.5 The Committee were informed that NDRF is a 100% deputationist force which draws its manpower from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) on deputation basis for a period of 07 years. NDRF personnel are trained in a variety of Disaster response training, equipped with various types of Disaster Management / Response Equipment and authorized with different types of vehicles & communication equipment to effectively deal with all sort of Disaster (natural & man made) including Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) emergencies. NDRF personnel are trained and equipped for: -

- a. CSSR (Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue) operations
- b. MFR (Medical First Response)
- c. CBRN emergency response.
- d. Flood Disasters.
- e. Mountain Search & Rescue.
- f. Deep Diving Search & Rescue.
- g. Canine and Technical Search.
- h. Animal disaster response

2 Organization of NDRF:-

1.6 Director General, NDRF is the head of the force and supervises the day to day functions and operations of the Force. The Headquarter of NDRF is at New Delhi. Besides, 03 DIGs along with 21 Supporting Staff (01 DIG, 7 Supporting staffs each from BSF, CISF & CRPF) has also been transferred from CAPFs taking into consideration the need to provide middle level administration of various functions/ tasks at HQ NDRF and to supervise the work of NDRF Battalions (Bn).

1.7 At present, there are 12 NDRF Battalions¹ and each NDRF Battalion has a strength of 1149 personnel comprising 18 self-contained search & rescue operational Teams which are equipped to deal with and respond to disaster. Each team has engineers, paramedics, technician, electrician and dog squads. Further 4 Battalions are stated to be under raising.

3 Role of NDRF:-

- 1.8 (a) Provide specialized response for rescue and relief in case of disasters-natural and manmade.
- (b) Deployment in case of impending disasters.

¹ Annexure A /

- (c) Assistance to civil authorities in distribution of relief material during/after disaster.
- (d) Co-ordination with other agencies engaged in rescue/relief work.

NDRF Tasks

- 1.9 (a) Deployment in case of impending disaster.
- (b) Provide specialist response in case of disasters which covers: -
 - i. Chemical Biological Radiological & Nuclear (CBRN) Disaster (Decontamination of the area and personnel).
 - ii. Extrication of victims-live or dead.
 - iii. First medical response to victims.
 - iv. To extend moral support to victims.
 - v. Assistance to civil authorities in distribution of relief material.
- (c) Co-ordination with sister agencies

Working Methodology of NDRF:-

1.10 It was informed that NDRF responds within the minimum time frame to reach the place of disaster with the designated required equipment. As per the Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for deployment of NDRF teams, approved by MHA, NDRF teams can be requisitioned for deployment during pre-disaster/impending disaster phase as well as during actual disaster.

- a. **Pre-disaster phase-** State Government may request for pre-positioning of the Unit/Sub-units of NDRF as measures of proactive response to deal with impending disaster when there is plausible reasons to believe that gravity of the disaster will be unmanageable for the State Government. Floods, Cyclones, Tsunamis and other disaster where forecast or early warning is available, NDRF prepositions its team in consultation with the respective state authorities and as per the forecast of early warning agencies like IMD (Indian Meteorological Department), CWC(Chemical Weapons Convention) & INCOIS(Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) etc.

b. During disaster Phase:- State Government or the concerned District Magistrate may request for the specialized disaster response of the Team (s) or Coy (s) of the NDRF to deal with the disaster when it is of Level-III. i.e. when the gravity of the disaster is so severe that it becomes unmanageable for the State Government to deal with even after having made the proper use of SDRF(State Disaster Response Force).

1.11 The following State govt. authorities can seek for NDRF teams along with complete details of the disaster which takes place in their area of responsibility:-

- Principal Secretaries of the States dealing with Disaster Management.
- Relief Commissioners of the States.
- Collectors/DCs /DMs of the districts.

In addition, when disaster is of larger magnitude, NDRF teams are mobilized even on telephonic request to save the time, as time plays a crucial role during any response.

1.12 In a power-point presentation to the Committee, it was also informed that NDRF, since its inception, has effectively responded to various disasters happened across the nation as well as to international disasters viz Tsunami in Japan (2011) and Nepal Earthquake (2015). Over a period of time NDRF has become a visible, vibrant, multi-skilled, hi-tech and standalone force capable of dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters including CBRN emergencies. NDRF has conducted various rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of Disasters.

CHAPTER II

Financial and Physical Performance of NDRF

Budget Allocation of NDRF

During evidence of the representatives of NDRF and Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th April, 2021, the Committee asked about any problems faced by NDRF due to shortage of funds to which a representative of NDRF responded as under:

“हम लोगों का जो औसतन बजट है, मैं इस साल के प्रोजेक्टेड बजट की फिगर दे सकता हूँ। यह 1,281 करोड़ रुपये है। वैसे औसतन 1,000 करोड़ रुपये से 1,100 करोड़ रुपये का बजट पिछले कुछ सालों में रहा है। इसमें सैलरी कंपोनेंट करीब 700-800 करोड़ रुपये के बीच का रहता है। -

हमारी जो जरूरतें हैं, उनमें बड़ी जरूरत इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की है। हम चाहते हैं कि हर बटालियन का इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बने। इसके लिए स्वतंत्र ईएफसी ऑलरेडी निर्धारित है, जिसके तहत भारत सरकार द्वारा सफिशिएंट फंड दिया गया है। इससे हम लोग कन्स्ट्रक्शन कर रहे हैं। 11 बटालियंस में कन्स्ट्रक्शन का काम चालू है। कहीं जमीन न मिलने के कारण या देरी से जमीन मिलने के कारण थोड़ी सी समस्या है, लेकिन कन्स्ट्रक्शन का काम चालू है और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस वित्तीय वर्ष के अंत तक 80-90 परसेंट काम खत्म हो जाएगा और अगले वित्तीय वर्ष के मध्य तक कन्स्ट्रक्शन का पूरा काम खत्म हो जाएगा। यह इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर की बात हुई।

हम लोग एक इक्युपमेंट ड्रिविन फोर्स हैं। We are driven by equipment. हमारे पास 310 इक्युपमेंट्स ऑथराइज़्ड हैं। जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि हमारे वर्टिकल्स हैं – कोलैब स्ट्रक्चर, सर्च एंड रेस्क्यु, फ्लड-वॉटर रेस्क्यु, मेडिकल फर्स्ट रिस्पॉन्स आदि। इन वर्टिकल्स के आधार पर हम लोग कार्यवाही करते हैं और हमारे इक्युपमेंट्स बंधे हुए हैं। इक्युपमेंट्स के लिए हमारे पास सफिशिएंट फंड्स आते हैं और अपग्रेडेशन भी हो रहा है। एक अच्छी बात है, जैसा कि मैं कह रहा था कि 15वें वित्त आयोग में एक स्पेशल डिसपेनसेशन दिया गया है। केपेसिटी बिल्डिंग इन नेशनल लेवल इन डिज़ास्टर रिस्पॉन्स के तहत नेशनल लेवल की जो एजेंसियां हैं, चाहे वह एनआईडीएम हो, एनडीएमए हो या एनडीआरएफ हो, उनकी केपेसिटी को कैसे बढ़ाया जा सकता है, इसलिए इसके तहत भी एक विन्डो खुल गई है। इसका प्रस्ताव ऑलरेडी पारित है और

मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इसके तहत भी हमें सफिशिएंट फंड्स मिलेंगे, जिससे हमें अपग्रेडेशन में मदद मिलेगी। Overall, we are very satisfied with the support of the Government. जो भी इनिशिएटिव्स हम लोग ले रहे हैं, उनके लिए भी हमें सपोर्ट मिल रहा है। मेरे विचार से we are in a comfortable position.”

A representative of Ministry of Home Affairs further added as follows:

“मैं गत तीन वर्षों के बजट के परिपेक्ष्य में बताना चाहूंगा। वर्ष 2019-20 में इनका 1,028.24 करोड़ रुपये का बजट था, जो वर्ष 2020-21 में बढ़कर 1,121.74 करोड़ रुपये हो गया और इस साल का बजट, जैसा कि इन्होंने बताया है, वह 1,281.41 करोड़ रुपये है। अतः इसमें निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है।”

2.2 In response to the query from Committee, in a written reply, the Ministry furnished following details of Budget allocation, revised allocation and actual utilization during last few years:

Head of Account	2016-17			2017-18			2018-19		
	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP
Revenue	558.89	670.66	670.41	598.35	757.28	754.53	814.10	827.73	824.49
Capital	221.12	175.01	174.93	231.92	227.68	227.44	240.00	208.00	207.91
NECP	7.01	6.00	6.00	8.01	8.81	8.80	18.22	15.22	15.19
NDRR	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Total budget	787.02	851.67	851.34	888.28	1043.77	1040.77	1122.32	1100.95	1097.59

Head of Account	2019-20			2020-21			2021-22		2022-23
	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	EXP	BE	RE	BE
Revenue	912.52	905.89	886.69	971.20	1002.62	952.28	1138.09	1219.28	1262.56
Capital	159.54	142.52	141.55	119.52	169.52	169.46	143.32	221.99	159.00
NECP	3.01	3.00	2.93	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02
NDRR	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.01	0.01	50
Total Budget	1125.07	1101.41	1081.17	1140.74	1222.14	1171.74	1281.44	1441.30	1471.58

2.3 On a written query of the Committee regarding the details of allocation and expenditure in terms of percentage on various heads such as salary, training, purchasing of new equipment, maintenance of existing equipment, Infrastructure,

construction of building and their maintenance and others, the Ministry furnished the following details of last five years:

Head of Account	2016-17 (in crores)				2017-18 (in crores)				2018-19 (in crores)			
	BE	RE	EXP	%Exp	BE	RE	EXP	%Exp.	BE	RE	EXP	%Exp
Salary	464.00	580.92	580.86	99.99	494.61	656.11	655.60	99.92	708.60	725.00	724.16	99.88
OAE (for Training)	1.25	1	0.69	69.24	1.25	1.25	0.94	75.36	1.25	1.50	1.15	77.07
FTE (for Training)	0.30	0.30	0.30	100	0.30	0.30	0.27	90	0.30	0.25	0.20	80
M&E (for purchasing of new equipment)	38	32	31.97	99.9	41.90	33.72	33.70	99.94	40	40	39.97	99.92
NECP (for purchasing of new equipment)	7.01	6	6	100	8.01	8.81	8.80	99.88	18.22	15.22	15.19	99.80
MW (for maintenance of existing equipment)	2.50	2	0.75	37.60	3	2.50	0.76	30.63	3	3	0.96	32.14
OB (for Infrastructure)	81.54	80	80	100	100	102.48	102.29	99.81	110	94.43	94.38	99.94
RB (for Infrastructure)	81.54	50	50	100	80	81.48	81.48	100	80	63.57	63.57	100
Head of Account	2019-20 (in crores)				2020-21 (in crores)							
	BE	RE	EXP	% Exp	BE	RE	EXP	% Exp				
Salary	788.00	748.00	740.03	98.93	828.00	828.00	779.37	94.13				
OAE (for Training)	1.50	1.97	1.28	65.40	2.10	2.10	1.20	57.26				
FTE (for Training)	0.40	0.32	0.23	71.87	0.40	0.02	0.01	50				
M&E (for purchasing of new equipment)	40	23	22.62	98.34	23	53	52.98	99.2				
NECP (for purchasing of new equipment)	3.01	3	2.93	97.6	.02	0	0	0				
MW (for maintenance of existing equipment)	5	5	1.43	28.77	5	5	1.39	27.92				
OB (for Infrastructure)	68	68	67.51	99.27	52	65	65.03	100				
RB (for Infrastructure)	27.00	27.00	27.00	100	20	27	27	100				

Development of Infrastructure for NDRF Battalions and Regional Response Centers

2.4 It was observed that there has been a lot of delay in providing and developing infrastructure for NDRF Battalions and Regional Response Centers in the country. While furnishing a written reply, the Ministry stated that Infrastructure development at 11 Bns, 10 team locations and NDRF Academy has been approved at a total estimated cost of ₹ 1272.26 crore. Infrastructure development of NDRF Battalions and team locations got delayed on account of: -

- i. Delay in land allotment / acquisition and clearances by the local bodies;
- ii. Various local issues;
- iii. Change of land by the State Govt (for NDRF Bn at Assam, Krishna)
- iv. Due to Covid-19 pandemic etc.

Infrastructure is almost complete at 06 Bn locations and 06 team locations and final bills are under process: -

- Bn Locations: Kolkata, Mundali, Arakkonam, Pune, Vadodara & Krishna.
- Team locations: Siliguri, Kolkata, Dwaraka, Vishakhapatnam, Bengaluru & Balasore.

Infrastructure near completion at 3 Bn locations and 3 team locations and likely to be completed by 2021-22: -

- Bn Location at Ludhiana, Ghaziabad & Patna.
- Team locations at Dehradun, Kishangarh & Supaul.

2.5 Further, the Committee were informed that the infrastructure development at remaining NDRF Battalions and team locations is under progress and accommodations in these locations are either provided by the parent department (i.e. BSF, CRPF & SSB) or by State Govts. or on hiring basis. Besides, NDRF Academy, Nagpur is functioning from old National Fire Service College and NCDC (now merged with NDRF Academy) campus at Nagpur.

2.6 The Committee asked the Ministry to furnish status of various infrastructure projects, funds allocated, utilized so far and date by which each of these projects is likely to be completed, Battalion-wise.

2.7 The Ministry accordingly has furnished Battalion/RRC wise Status of projects as under:

NDRF Battalions						(₹. in Cr.)
Sr.No.	Name of the Battalion	EFC approved amount	Sanction amount	Exp. released so far	Likely date of completion	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	01 BN NDRF, Guwahati.	5.76				Land cost paid to the State. In the meeting held on 04.02.2021 under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, it was intimated by the Chief Secretary Assam that the land presently allotted to NDRF is falling under the eco-sensitive zone. Hence, construction cannot be done at the allotted land, however, Govt. of Assam will allot an alternative land for 1 st Bn NDRF. Land yet not identified by the State Govt of Assam, hence work could not be started. A follow up VC meeting was also held under chairmanship of Add. Secretary (UT) on 06/07/2021. Land is still being identified by the State Govt.
		95.03	86.68	0.13		Land came into Eco-sensitive zone. Hence, work could not be started. If land is provided by the State Govt. then work will be completed by March 2024.
	Total 01 Bn	100.79	86.68	0.13		
2	2 BN NDRF, Haringhata.	109.48	91.23	84.77	Completed	Works have been completed on 17.09.2019.
3	3 BN NDRF, Mundali.	20.36	22.38	22.34	Completed	Works have been completed on 16.09.2019.
4	4 Bn. NDRF Arakkonam	10.64	9.17	8.82	Completed	All works are completed on 26.06.2020.
5	5 BN NDRF, Pune, Maharashtra	120.56	108.19	99.53	Completed	All works are completed. Few minor works are balance and likely to be completed within couple of months.
6	6 BN NDRF, Vadodara.	119.10	113.57	112.64	Completed	All works are completed on 22.12.2018.
7	7 BN NDRF, Ludhiana.	85.30	80.64	66.80	31.03.2022	85% works are completed.
8	8 BN NDRF, Ghaziabad.	99.36	85.39	46.76	31.03.2022	All office buildings completed on

						06.03.2019. Work of residential building are under progress.
9	09 BN NDRF, Patna.	107.29	93.18	52.95	31.03.2022	70% works are completed.
10	10 BN NDRF, Krishna.	98.82	98.91	81.53	Completed	All works are completed in June 2021.
11	12th Bn. Hollongi	33.35	33.35	33.35		Land amount paid and land acquired.
		130.27	119.69	6.94	31.03.2023	10% works are completed.
12	NDRF Academy, Nagpur	85.16	76.53		31.03.2023	08% works are completed.

RRC/ TEAM LOCATIONS

(₹. in Cr.)						
Sr. No.	Name of the Battalion	EFC approved amount	Sanction amount	Exp. released so far (5+6)	Likely date of completion	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Siliguri, 02 Bn.	2.89	2.90	2.90		Land amount paid and land acquired.
		4.95	4.67	4.55	Completed	Work completed on 18.09.2019.
2	Kolkata, 02 Bn.	5.29	5.29	5.29		Land amount paid and land acquired.
		5.16	6.01	4.89	Completed	Work completed on 18.09.2019.
3	Gandhinagar, 06 Bn.	7.87	7.87	7.87		Land amount paid and land acquired.
			0.39	0.39		Payment made against stamp duty for already allotted land.
		4.81			31.03.2023	Work is yet to start. Approval of MHA reg. selection of PSU is awaited.
	Total (Gandhinagar)	12.68	8.26	8.26		Work will be completed by 31.03.2023.
4	Kishangarh, Rajasthan, 06 Bn.	2.42	2.42	2.42		Land amount paid and land acquired.
		6.50	4.52	3.51	31.03.2022	84% works are completed.
5	Dwarka, New Delhi, 08 Bn.	4.03	4.05	4.05		Land amount paid and land acquired.
		20.84	19.75	15.67	31.09.2021	95% works are completed.
6	Dehradun, 08 Bn.	4.00				Land acquired free of cost.
		4.48	4.17	2.81	31.12.2021	86% works are completed.
7	Bangalore,	6.49	6.20	4.15	31.03.2022	81% works are

	10 Bn					completed.
8	Balasore, 3 rd Bn.	3.00				Land amount paid and land acquired.
		7.00	6.31	4.26	31.03.2022	90% works are completed.
9	Supaul, 9 th Bn.	4.00				Land acquired on lease basis on ₹1 as token amount.
		6.55	5.92	2.42	31.03.2022	44% works are completed.
10	Vishakhapatnam 10 Bn.	4.00				Land acquired free of cost.
		5.57	6.18	4.68	31.09.2021	97% works are completed.

2.8 On the written query regarding the steps taken by the Government for completion of infrastructure projects in a time bound manner. The Ministry stated that NDRF had constituted a Project Monitoring Group (PMG) for each NDRF location for monitoring of the construction works to supervising the progress/quality of works being executed by the executing agencies. In addition to this, construction work of NDRF infrastructure are awarded to the executing agencies in Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode, where all responsibilities of design, development of infrastructure, quality of work, timely completion etc. are with executing agencies/PSUs. To monitor the construction activities/status at all NDRF locations, a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Disaster Management Division), MHA regularly review and monitor the progress.

2.9 During evidence, the Committee have asked that since there no RRC in Goa, was there any such request from its State Government. A representative of NDRF informed the Committee that the request has come from the State of Goa and they have been asked to identify land and in response, they have given some options also.

2.10 When asked to furnish details of the criteria, norms fixed for setting up of Regional Response Centres along with the name of States in which there is no RRC so far, the Committee were informed as under.

Before the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and subsequent raising of NDRF in 2006, Regional Response Centre (RRCs) of CAPFs were created based on the vulnerability profile of the country to provide immediate response during disasters. In due course, most of these RRCs were handed over to NDRF. Usually approx. 10,000 sq. ft. built up area or 05 acres land is required for a RRC. At present there are 28 RRCs in various States/UTs. List of these are enclosed as **Appendix-A**. 07 States/ UTs namely Goa, Meghalaya, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry do not have any NDRF Bn/ RRC. However, these States/ UTs are covered by nearby NDRF Battalion/ RRC location.

CHAPTER III

Functioning of NDRF

Deployment of Battalions, their capacities and strength

As regards review conducted by the Government to find out the shortage of personnel in CAPF from which Battalions are converted to NDRF, the Ministry, in their written reply, stated as under:

“As on day 16 Battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have been raised. Out of these 16 Battalions, eight Battalions were constituted in 2006 by upgradation/conversion of 8 standard Battalions of Central Armed Police Force (i.e. two Battalions each from BSF, ITBP, CISF and CRPF). Thereafter, two Battalions one each from CRPF and BSF were converted into NDRF Battalions in 2010. Subsequent to that two Battalions of SSB were converted into NDRF Battalions in 2015. While constituting these 12 Battalions of NDRF by upgradation/conversion of existing CAPF Battalions, a conscious decision was taken by the Government not to raise any additional Battalions in lieu of these Battalions. It may be submitted here that prior to constitution of the NDRF, armed forces were functioning as the first responder to any disaster.”

3.2 Further, since, 2006, the Central Government sanctioned 171 new Battalions (Bns.) in various CAPFs, which include 58 Bns. in CRPF, 39 Bn. in SSB, 35 Bns. in BSF, 33 Bns. in ITBP and 6 Bns. in CISF. These Battalions have been raised considering various factors, such as requirement of additional manpower for operational requirements and also for giving rest, relief, recuperation to units deployed on active duty and as well as other commitments of CAPFs. Any reduction in number of manpower/Battalions of CAPFs due to conversion of 12 Battalions into NDRF Battalions in 2006, 2010 and 2015 was temporary and these reductions have been recouped in subsequent years by raising of 171 new Battalions in various CAPFs since 2006. Moreover, raising of new Battalions in CAPF is a dynamic process and new Battalions would continue to be raised in CAPFs, as and when required, depending upon the operational requirement.”

3.3 The Committee then desired to know about mechanism to assess the strength of NDRF and the period in which such assessments were conducted, the reasons for making NDRF as deputationist force and how administrative and policy issues of NDRF are being dealt with by deputationists. The Ministry, in their written reply, stated that:

“Strength of NDRF has been assessed from time to time since its inception. Based on such assessment, no. of Bns. have been increased from initial 8

Bns. in the year 2006 to 10 Bns. in the year 2010 and subsequently 12 Bns. in the year 2015. Subsequent to that, a need was felt to further increase the strength of NDRF. Accordingly, Government decided to raise 4 new Bns. of NDRF from CAPFs to boost the availability of sufficient manpower to meet the requirement of prompt response during any disaster situation. Moreover, strengthening and augmenting the manpower of NDRF is a continuous process.

NDRF has been raised as a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled and high tech stand-alone force, capable of effectively responding, all types of disasters, natural as well as manmade and in disaster like situations including Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) emergencies. The rationale behind having a deputationist force is that the force should be a young force, with its personnel normally falling within the age group of 30-45 years. This would ensure that the personnel can maintain the highest level of fitness. This is vital, given the nature of the task to be performed by them and the skills and abilities expected of them, which would include physically digging into the debris of collapsed structure caused by earthquakes or other calamities and being able to swim in flooded waters to rescue people etc.

DG, NDRF has been vested with operational and administrative power in respect of NDRF personnel who are on deputation with NDRF. However, all service related matters in respect of NDRF personnel are being dealt by concerned CAPFs as per NDRF Rule-8. This system has been functioning effectively for the last 15 years.”

3.4 On response to a written query regarding time duration of training of personnel of various CAPF joining NDRF and when the training of the 3 Battalions was started and when the training will be completed.

3.5 The Ministry in their written reply furnished that after the joining of CAPF officials in NDRF on their induction, the inducted personnel are required to undergo 19 weeks “Basic Course of Disaster First Responder” at unit level as per the details given below:-

Sl.	Name of the modules of Basic Course	Duration
I	Orientation course	1 Week
II	CSSR	3 Weeks
III	MFR	3 Weeks
IV	Rope Rescue	2 Weeks
V	Aquatic Disaster Response Course	4 Weeks
VII	Dead Body Management Course	3 Days
VIII	Animal Disaster Management Course	1 Week
IX	Fire Fighting Course	3 Days

X	Basic CBRN	4 Weeks
Total		19 Weeks

3.6 Besides, the selected & eligible personnel undergo various advance courses like:-

ADDITIONAL COURSES AT UNIT LEVEL		DURATION	LOCATION
1.	Oxy Fuel cutting course	04 Days	ALL NDRF BNS
2.	Course on school safety	03 Days	
3.	Equipment handling & Maintenance course	02 Weeks	
4.	Boat maintenance Course	04 Days	
COLLECTIVE TRAINING OF NDRF COY			
1.	Collective Training of NDRF Coy	06 Weeks	ALL NDRF BNS
ADVANCE COURSES FOR NDRF PERSONNEL			
1.	ToT MFR & CSSR (CT to ASI)	05 Weeks	NDRF ACADEMY NAGPUR
2.	TOT MFR & CSSR	04 Weeks	
3.	TOT (REFRESHER) IN MFR & CSSR	02 Weeks	
4.	MT MFR & CSSR	01 Week	
5.	MT (REFRESHER) IN MFR & CSSR	01 Week	
6.	TOT IN SCHOOL SAFETY & HOW TO CONDUCT MOCK EXERCISE	01 Week	
7.	BOREWELL COURSE	03 Days	
8.	FIRE FIGHTING COURSE	2 Weeks	
9.	TOT CADRE	02 Weeks	2 ND BN NDRF
10.	TOT CBRN	04 Weeks	5 TH BN NDRF
11.	TOT CBRN REFRESHER COURSE	02 Weeks	
12.	MT CBRN	02 Weeks	
13.	MT CBRN REFRESHER COURSE	01 Week	NDRF ACADEMY NAGPUR
14.	ROPE RESCUE COURSE FOR NDRF	1 Week	
15.	IRS COURSE	1 Week	
16.	INSARAG COURSE	1 Week	
17.	STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT COURSE	2 Weeks	
18.	PSYCHO-SOCIAL INTERVENTION IN DISASTER	1 Week	
19.	MEDIA MANAGEMENT COURSE	03 Days	
20.	COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER MANAGEMENT	05 Days	

The training details of newly raised 3 Battalions are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Unit	CAPF organization	Training Started	Training Completed/ to be completed
01	13 Bn NDRF	Assam Rifles	07 Sept, 2020	16 Jan, 2021

02	14 Bn NDRF	ITBP	14 Dec, 2020	31 Aug, 2021
03	15 Bn NDRF	ITBP	18 Jan, 2021	14 Aug, 2021

3.7 During evidence the Ministry informed the Committee that 4 Battalions are under raising. The Committee, in a written List of Points, desired to particularly know the status and process of raising of 1 Battalion from BSF.

3.8 The Ministry, responding in their written reply, stated as under:

“Process of raising of 01 NDRF Bn from BSF has already been commenced. Total 139 personnel have been selected on deputation. Out of which 103 personnel have joined. BSF has intimated that due to acute shortage of manpower in their organization, they will be able to provide remaining manpower as per authorization for a Bn only after March 2022”.

3.9 The Ministry further informed the Committee that Government is aware and sensitive to the growing needs of NDRF and committed to its modernization and supporting in all possible ways so that adequate and fast relief can be provided by NDRF across India. The Ministry in their further clarification stated that the Government is sensitive to the need and requirement of NDRF and making all out efforts to fulfill the same. Preparedness is a continuous process and it is regularly monitored keeping in mind various factors such as requirement, availability of funds and manpower, training capacity, Battalion infrastructure, etc. Some of the steps taken in this direction are as under:

- i. Operational preparedness and training of all the NDRF Battalions are regularly monitored and reviewed, in view of unforeseen disasters occurring in the country.
- ii. Conduct of Capacity Building programmes with various stakeholders including school safety programmes to enhance preparedness of the community.
- iii. Mock Drills are conducted regularly with various stakeholders such as Indian Railways, State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Multi Accidental Hazardous Industries (MAHI) and schools;
- iv. International workshop/ field exercises are also undertaken by NDRF to acquaint the Force with the latest international standards;
- v. In 2017 with a view to enable swift movement of NDRF teams from NDRF location to disaster site, the authorization of vehicle in a standard NDRF Battalion

was also enhanced from 80 vehicles to 104 vehicles per Battalion.

- vi. Review of Disaster Management equipment of NDRF to be used during the coming years;
- vii. Review of communication equipment;
- viii. Creation of post of Director for heading the NDRF Academy;
- ix. Proposal for creation of 17 posts in the NDRF Academy is in pipeline;
- x. Meeting of Union Home Secretary with the Chief Secretary of the State of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, UTs of J&K and Chandigarh for early identification and allotment of land for NDRF Battalions and RRCs/team locations. This has resulted in allotment of land in NCT of Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for NDRF Bns. It also helped in identification of land in Uttarakhand and also for providing temporary accommodations for newly raised Bns. in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Pursuant thereto, a follow up meeting was also held at the level of Additional Secretary (UT), MHA with the Relief Commissioners of the respective States/UTs.
- xi. In 2018, RRCs locations of NDRF were increased from 23 to 28 locations to provide quick relief during disaster across India.
- xii. Infrastructure development at 11 Bn, 10 Team locations and NDRF Academy approved which are under various stages of progress. The land for HQ of NDRF has been allotted in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.
- xiii. Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 28.07.2021 has re-appraised the infrastructure development scheme and provided extension for ongoing sub-schemes and also approved inclusion of three new sub-schemes viz: Land acquisition for new raising Battalion and 11thBn NDRF, Infrastructure for HQ NDRF at New Delhi and 08 Regional Response Centers (RRCs) of NDRF, for its implementation beyond 2021-22.
- xiv. Every year, adequate funds are allocated to NDRF for procurement of equipments and motor vehicles.

Role and Tasks of NDRF

3.10 The Committee desire to know the extent to which NDRF has so far been satisfied with its role in managing various types of disasters and any problem faced while dealing with its tasks. The Ministry, in their written reply, stated that:

“the Ministry of Home Affairs remains in constant touch with the States for providing assistance to States for effective relief & response in the event of

a disaster. The NDRF is deployed in consultation with the concerned State Government as per their requirement. NDRF has successfully conducted more than 6965 operations during various types of disasters, rescued 135625 persons and 14258 livestock, evacuated 703848 persons, retrieved 5006 dead bodies. In addition, NDRF teams have assisted State administrations in mass evacuations of persons and distribution of relief materials and medical assistance during cyclones, floods and other disasters.”

3.11 Further it was informed that the MHA carries out review of preparedness of NDRF from time to time. MHA also remains in touch with State Governments on NDRF deployment. States/UTs extend all necessary co-operation to NDRF during their deployment to deal with disaster related tasks.

3.12 The Ministry also apprised the Committee that after the Kedarnath incident which caused a massive flood disaster in the area, the Ministry has created eight State Disaster Response Forces (SDRF) and that NDRF will train SDRF and bring them to the level of NDRF.

3.13 In this context, the Ministry, in their written reply, further stated that constitution of State Disaster Response Force is the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Government. The Central Government has been regularly requesting State/UT to constitute SDRF and equip them at par with NDRF. Moreover, keeping in view of the likely role and tasks which have been assigned to SDRFs in various States & to train them for any disaster, the following training programmes are being organized by NDRF for SDRF personnel:-

Sl. No.	Name of the course	Duration of the course	Venue
01	Basic Disaster First Responder Course	06 Weeks	All NDRF Units
02	ToT in MFR & CSSR	05 Weeks	07 Bn NDRF
03	ToT in CBRN	04 Weeks	05 Bn NDRF
04	ToT in CADRE	01 Week	NDRF Academy
05	MT in MFR & CSSR	01 Week	NDRF Academy
06	MT in CBRN	02 Weeks	05 Bn NDRF

The details of SDRF personnel trained by NDRF so far is enclosed as **Appendix-B**. Apart from above, NDRF is also organizing training for the SDRF personnel on special request of State Authorities/SDRFs. Besides, to share the good practices and monsoon preparedness, NDRF organizes “Annual Conference on Capacity Building of SDRFs/Home Guards/Civil Defence” every year since 2013.

Working Methodology of NDRF

3.14 The Committee, in their questionnaire to the Ministry desired to know the minimum time frame for NDRF to reach the place of disaster and the Standing Operating Procedure for deployment of NDRF teams;

The Ministry, in their written reply, stated that:

“Two teams in all NDRF Battalions as well as teams deployed at all RRCs are always kept ready on wheels with all necessary equipments for mobilization within 30 minutes on receipt of the information of any disaster/emergency. However, the time taken to reach the incident site would depend on a number of factors including distance, terrain weather condition and impediments on way if any.”

3.15 It was further explained:

Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for deployment of NDRF was approved by the MHA on 16th December, 2014 and was circulated to all States/UTs. The copy of the same is enclosed as **Appendix-C**. Further, for proper and judicious use of NDRF by States/UTs, a comprehensive guideline for deployment of NDRF teams was formulated in January, 2020. The guidelines are enclosed as **Appendix-'D'**.

3.16 On the query from the Committee as to how the request of States, Agencies etc. for pre-disaster/impending disaster phase are examined and decisions are finalized and the facilities available with NDRF for mobilization of its Forces, equipments etc. to disaster sites.

3.17 The Ministry in their written reply stated that:

“For disasters like Floods, Cyclones, Tsunamis and other disaster where forecast or early warning is available, NDRF preposition its teams in consultation with the respective State Authorities and as per the forecast of early warning agencies like IMD, CWC, INCOIS etc. Pre-positioning is carried out as a measure of proactive response to deal with the impending disaster when there are plausible reasons to believe that gravity of the disaster will be potentially unmanageable for the State Government and its agencies. Further on the assessment of the situation, in case additional teams are required by the State Governments, adequate number of additional NDRF teams are deployed, even by airlifting teams from other Battalion locations.

Generally, NDRF teams are mobilized in its own dedicated vehicles to the disaster site. Teams are also mobilized by train or in Aircrafts of Indian Air Force as per the magnitude of the disasters; lead time required for deployment and distance of the disaster site."

3.18 During evidence, in reply to a query in Hindi i.e. "यदि कहीं कोई विपदा अचानक आ जाती है तो हमारी एक ऐसी वर्क फोर्स रहनी चाहिए जो समय पर इसका सामना कर सके"; a representative of the Ministry informed the Committee that:

"प्रेजेंटेशन के समय हमने आपदा मित्र का उल्लेख किया था। इसके बारे में मैं विस्तृत में बताना चाहूंगा कि 18 से 40 साल के जो लोग हैं और सातवीं तक जिन्होंने पढ़ाई की है, उन्हें आपदा मित्र योजना के तहत ट्रेड किया जा रहा है और अब तक सात हजार लोगों को ट्रेड किया जा चुका है। इसके बाद दूसरे चरण में हमने 350 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स आइडेंटिफाई किए हैं, जहां प्राकृतिक आपदा आती रहती है। ऐसे क्षेत्रों के लिए हम एक लाख लोगों की फोर्स बनाएंगे। वर्ष 2023 तक का हमारा टारगेट है और 350 करोड़ रुपये की उपलब्धता इसके लिए कराई गई है। जिन सात हजार लोगों को ट्रेड किया है, कोविड में भी इनका पार्टिसिपेशन बहुत अच्छा रहा है। जब यह फोर्स बन जाएगी, तो हम लोगों के लिए भी बहुत सपोर्ट सिस्टम तैयार हो जाएगा।"

3.19 The Committee desired to have more details with regard to the proposal to set up disaster response units at District, Panchayat levels in the country.

3.20 The Ministry in their written reply stated that:

"In terms of section 25 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) have been set up as planning, coordinating and implementing bodies for disaster management and to take all measures in the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National and State Authorities. DDMA's have also been constituted in all the districts.

To provide the community volunteers with the skills to undertake immediate basic relief and rescue tasks, for community, in the aftermath of a disaster such as floods, flash-floods and urban flooding, 6000 community volunteers (200 volunteers per district) in disaster response in selected 30 most flood prone districts of 25 States of India have been trained under scheme "Aapda Mitra".

“Aapda Mitra” Scheme has been Up-scaled and is being implemented to train and equip and to insure 100,000 able-bodied volunteers in disaster response for floods, cyclone, landslide and earthquake relief and rescue in 350 disaster prone districts covering all States & UTs. The scheme will be implemented in three years (i.e. 2020-21 to 2022-23) with a total financial outlay of ₹ 369.41 Crore.”

3.21 In response to the written query of the Committee regarding the districts which have high frequency of disasters and details of any specific plan made for various such districts, the Ministry stated that Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has prepared the Vulnerability Atlas of India (VAI), which has been updated in 2019 (third edition) and is available at the following link: www.bmtpc.org/DataFiles/CMS/file/VAI2019/Index.html.

3.22 Section 31 of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 mandates that every district of a State shall prepare their Disaster Management Plan (DMP). The DMP shall, inter-alia, include the areas in the district vulnerable to different form of disasters. The DMP of a District is approved by the State Disaster Management Authority. Out of 732 districts, 673 districts have their DMPs.

3.23 NDMA has prepared guidelines for management of specific disasters, which are to be taken into account by the concerned authorities, including district authorities while preparing their DMP. NDMA runs timely campaigns on awareness generation on various disasters through television, radio, print media, social media etc. In addition to this, the awareness generation content is shared with the States/UTs for dissemination in vernacular languages.

3.24 The Ministry informed that all NDRF Battalions are deployed strategically across the Country based on the vulnerability profile of the country to provide immediate response. Apart from it, pre-deployment of NDRF is also done based on the forecast/early warning vis-à-vis analysis of vulnerability of the State / District and experiences learnt during previous year's deployment.

3.25 District level Mock Exercises are being conducted by NDRF based on the vulnerability profile of the districts. NDMA is also facilitating in conduct of State/Multi-State level Mock Exercises in order to complement and supplement the efforts of States/UTs for the preparedness and capacity building in disaster management.

3.26 During evidence, the Committee desire to know that responsibility of SDRF is with State Government. A representative of NDRF informed the Committee that SDRF is under States and NDRF is to provide their assistance to SDRF, however, many States does not have SDRF. (Verb, pg 5)

3.27 States/UTs are being encouraged and advised to raise their own Response Forces i.e. SDRF. Advisory on raising and operationalisation have been issued by NDMA to the States/UTs. Training of SDRF personnel on operation and equipment are being organized by NDRF in consultation with State/UT.

Capacity Building

3.28 The Ministry in reply to a written query of the Committee furnished details of norms under which various Capacity building event are being organized by NDRF. It was informed as under:

“NDRF has been raised as a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, stand-alone force capable of effectively responding to all types of disasters and disaster like situation and to mitigate the effects of disasters. National Policy on Disaster Management -2009 also gave mandate to NDRF for Capacity Building of the community. Accordingly, NDRF is relentlessly engaged in the “Community Capacity Building and Public Awareness and preparedness programme of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), State Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire Services, NCC Cadets, NGOs, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Students, Volunteers and other stakeholders. Such capacity building programmes are conducted, especially when NDRF is not engaged in disaster response or relief works. Details of Mock Exercises, Community Awareness Programme (CAP), School Safety Programme (SSP), NCC, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) training are as under:-

Event	No. of programme/ batches organized so far	Total beneficiaries so far
CAP	7688	5637169
SSP	2531	1011738
NCC	-	6873
NYKS	196	8266
Mock Exercise	3214	1292019

3.29 The Ministry, in their written reply, further stated that:

“Community Awareness Programme and other training activities for Capacity Building of the Community are being organized by the respective NDRF Units within their Area of Responsibilities in consultation with SDMA/DDMA of the respective States/Districts. The need of training is being worked out/ prioritized by the NDRF Units based on the vulnerability profile of the districts. Accordingly, the syllabus and Training Programme is

being prepared by the Board of Instructors in consultation with the experienced officials of field formations and duly approved by the Competent Authority.”

3.30 The NDRF Academy has been set up at Nagpur by merging National Civil Defence College in the year 2018. Currently the institute is being run at the erstwhile NCDC campus at Civil Lines, Nagpur. The Committee were informed that New infrastructure project for the Academy has been sanctioned at a total project cost of ₹125 Crore. Possession of 153 acre of land had already been taken. and the foundation stone for the project was laid by Hon'ble Home Minister in the year 2020. Construction for the work has commenced and in progress. The details of trainings conducted at NDRF Academy and its manpower were given as under:-

- Institute is currently providing specialized training in Disaster response to NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence, NCC and other stakeholders.
- Once new infrastructure of Academy is completed, it is aimed to run 120 training courses to train about 5000 personnel in a year, including officials from SAARC countries.
- Since 2018, NDRF Academy has trained 3481 personnel (NDRF – 1317, SDRF – 437, Assam Rifles – 34, CAPF – 30, and Civil Defence/Home Guard/ Fire Service – 1663).
- A total of 110 posts have been sanctioned for NDRF Academy and 109 personnel are in position.

3.31 The Ministry further informed that currently the Academy is conducting various courses for the Civil Defence and NCC volunteers in both online as well as offline modes. Since the disaster response training has got more of skill component, online courses can be run for the knowledge based courses for generating awareness only.

3.32 On a query regarding women unit of NDRF, the Ministry in their written reply stated that all CAPFs have been requested to provide 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Bns. within the strength of NDRF for rescue and relief operations especially for women victims. Till now 170 Mahila personnel have already joined the NDRF.

3.33 During evidence, the Committee asked regarding timely procurement of required equipment, specialized response required to deal with situation arising out of disasters. A representative of Government informed that:

“सर, आपने जो कम्युनिटी इन्वॉल्वमेंट की बात की है, तो मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि आपदा मित्र में हम लोगों ने यही इनिशिएटिव लिया है। 350 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स अभी

आइडेंटिफाई हुए हैं और इनमें 18 से 40 साल के लोग, जो सातवीं पास हैं, उनको विभिन्न तरह की ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है। उनको किट भी दी जाती है ताकि आपदा के समय उसका उपयोग वे कर सकें। हमने लगभग सात हजार लोगों को इस प्रकार की ट्रेनिंग दी है। हमारा अब तक का यह अनुभव रहा है कि उन लोगों ने आपदा से लड़ाई में काफी योगदान दिया है। 350 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में इसको एक्सटेंड किया जा रहा है और एक लाख लोगों की फोर्स इन 350 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में क्रिएट होगी। So, this will be a major contribution in fighting such disasters.

सर, आपने यह बात कही कि किसी भी सर्विसेज की रिक्विजिशन करने के लिए पावर होनी चाहिए, तो मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट एक्ट 2005 में यह प्रावधान पहले से ही है।”

3.34 A representative of NDRF further added:

“I agree with you that it should be taken into the practical domain, and actually, real time simulation should happen. Even maybe exposed to real time situations where a cyclone has just happened, where they can see, they should do what they can. But initially, NCC was not a part of so much of the mix of capacity building activities of NDRF. It has been given a very strong fillip. From the ramparts of the Red Fort last time, the hon. Prime Minister actually said that the NCC, especially at the border districts, should come and help in disaster response and other such things. So, since then, the NCC Directorate has contacted us and we are on the job. I am sure, we will be able to implement some of the ideas that you have already given for practical based training and actually maybe on-the-site exposure also. We have done that, and I think, we have the experience wherewithal to get that implemented. Maybe, we will learn as we go.

As far as online courses are concerned, I think, that is a very good idea. We were considering it but we have not yet prepared the module. We have a standardised module for the 'Aapda Mitra'. We have made that module for the NDMA on requisition. I am sure, we can do it. The earlier Chairperson raised a question that can there be a standardised module for the citizens. We have made such standardised modules, and I am sure, those modules can be translated into multiple languages and implemented. We have tried to evangelize the idea to the State Governments because it is a State Governments' prerogative, and I am sure, some of the State Governments have taken it up very seriously. So, I hope, that will also happen.

As far as the specialised operations and requisition is concerned, the Secretary has explained that requisition can happen. Supplement to that point, you would be happy to know that the hon. Home Minister, when he was reviewing last time, said that we should have a database of all such equipment that is present. Even if it is with a private sector, a company in a district, they have a pay loader, they have a JCB.

वह सारा डेटा आपके पास होना चाहिए, so that you can requisition it. He, in fact, took the example of some place in Gujarat where, they said, कि उनके पास तो 6 बोट्स भी हैं, आप उनकी बोट्स भी ले सकते हैं। This is something that has now been translated. One data base, that is, the Indian Disaster Response Network (IDRN) is being prepared. We are also helping in that. We will have the entire grid picture of what assets are there with whom, even if it is a private entity, so that we can requisition it when required.”

3.35 In regard to the steps taken for Community training and awareness, practical training to NCC cadets and other forces by the NDRF, the following information was provided:

3.36 NDRF is proactively engaged in the “Community Capacity Building and Public Awareness and preparedness programme of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire, Students, Volunteers, NCC Cadets, NGOs, NYKS and other stakeholders. Besides, the mock exercise are conducted by NDRF with various stakeholders like, Indian Railways, Metro, Major Accident Hazards (MAH) Units and Public Sector Units.

The Ministry in their written reply also stated that NDRF has been conducting various Disaster Management related training programme for NCC cadets and CAPFs based on the requisitions received from the concerned authorities. The details of training programme conducted so far are as under:-

Event	No. of programme/batches organized so far	Total trained so far
NCC Training	14 (03 days training)	2932
CAPF	15	1197

3.37 During evidence the Committee sought attention on increasing cases of elephant attacks, drowning incidents, incidents of fire in forests in various States and asked if there was any proposal to include them in the list of disasters to be attended by the NDRF.

3.38 While submitting before the Committee, a representative of the Ministry stated:

“एनिमल रेस्क्यू के बारे में प्रेजेंटेशन में बताया है। हमारा मोटो सेविंग्स लाइफ एंड बियाँड है। हम यह फर्क नहीं करते हैं कि ह्यूमन लाइफ है या एनिमल लाइफ है। यदि कोई एनिमल भी किसी जगह फंसा है, तो हम उसका बचाव करते हैं। जहां तक हाथियों की सुरक्षा का सवाल है, वह फॉरेस्ट विभाग के तहत आता है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे देश में हम फॉरेस्ट विभाग के साथ आग के विषय में कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम कर रहे हैं। फॉरेस्ट गार्ड्स की ट्रेनिंग के विषय पर भी हम मिलकर काम कर रहे हैं। यदि इस तरह की कोई बात सामने आएगी, तो हम जरूर इसमें काम करने को सक्षम होंगे।

जहां तक आपने टूरिज्म और फॉल्स के बारे में कहा है, मुझे मालूम है कि वहां पिकनिक के समय लोगों के डूबने की काफी घटनाएं होती हैं। आपको मालूम होगा कि एक महीने पहले ही एक गडरिया अपनी भेड़-बकरियों के साथ पानी के बीचों-बीच ट्रेप हो गया था। उनका रेस्क्यू एनडीआरएफ ने किया था।

वहां के डैम में कोई ट्रेप हो गया था, उसको भी रेस्क्यू किया गया। खूंटी में इसी प्रकार से एक गरीब आदमी फंसा गया था, उसको भी रेस्क्यू किया गया। एक महत्वपूर्ण बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, जो कि आपकी बातों से निकलकर आती है कि सिमडेगा, डीसी ने एक रिक्वेस्ट लेटर भेजा कि हमारे यहां कुछ लोगों को ट्रेन्ड कर दिया जाए, ताकि वे ऐसे समय में काम आ सकें। हम लोगों ने सिमडेगा में वह ट्रेनिंग भी शुरू कर दी है। देवगढ़ में आप जानते हैं कि सावन के दौरान काफी भीड़ रहती है तो उसके लिए भी हम लोग ट्रेनिंग कर रहे हैं। अतः ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है। हम लोग ट्रेनिंग दे रहे हैं। जब-जब इस तरह की रिक्विजिशन आएंगी तो हम लोग आगे भी ट्रेनिंग देते रहेंगे।”

3.39 In regard to inclusion of forest fire in the list of disaster to be taken by the NDRF. The Ministry in their written reply stated that the matter is under consultation with stakeholders concerned.

Review and upgradation of disaster response equipment authorized to NDRF

3.40 In view to enhance the operational efficiency some additional equipment (Cutting tools) has been authorized to NDRF and also the authorization of Deep Diving equipment has also been revised. In 2017 with a view to enable swift movement of NDRF teams from NDRF location to disaster site, the authorization of vehicle in a

standard NDRF Battalion was also enhanced from 80 vehicles to 104 vehicles per Battalion.

3.41 On the query regarding the details of authorized and existing no. of various Disaster response equipment, the policy of the NDRF to review the utility and compatibility of various electronic gadgets and the time when proposal will be cleared and received back from NDMA, the Ministry furnished a List of authorized and existing equipments under different categories are attached as **Appendix 'E'**. They further stated that the review of utility and compatibility of various electronic gadgets available with NDRF is being carried out from time to time. Such gadgets are utilized during disasters, after imparting proper training at various levels. Regular inspection of these gadgets is also carried out by Officers to ensure their functionality as per the operational need.

The proposal has now been received from NDRF. MHA, NDMA & NDRF are working closely to expedite and finalize all the proposals related to upgradation of equipments, Infrastructure development, etc. of NDRF.

3.42 In reply to a query regarding mapping of available resources at District level, and the number of districts in the country in which updated mapping data is available as on date. The Ministry has stated that India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) is an online portal (<https://idrn.nidm.gov.in>) providing nation-wide inventory of DM-related resources covering almost all the basic needs. NIDM is responsible for maintaining and monitoring the data and the portal. It is a web-based platform, for managing the inventory of equipment, skilled human resources and critical supplies for emergency response. Primary focus of IDRN portal is to enable the decision makers to have updated data base on availability of equipment and human resources required to respond to any emergency.

In IDRN portal, a total of 365 items divided into 36 categories based on various contingencies and emergencies are available for updation. Total 740 districts of 36 States/UTs have been registered on IDRN portal. Authorized government officers have access to the Portal and the District Authorities are authorized for uploading and updating the data after collecting it from various line departments of their respective district. Total no of data updated from 20 July, 2020 to 20 June, 2021 are 1,40,167.

Review and upgradation of communication equipment authorized to NDRF

3.43 The Committee further desired to know the year in which efficiency of communication equipment authorized to NDRF was last reviewed and the policy/procedure being adopted by the DM Division, MHA to examine the proposals of NDRF and the time by which pending proposals will be finalized.

3.44 The Ministry, in their written reply, stated that”

“the review of equipment of NDRF including communication equipment is carried out from time to time in consultation with NDMA.

In the year 2011, under National Emergency Communication Plan (NECP) Phase –II the review of communication equipment of NDRF Battalions was carried out and accordingly the requisite equipments were provided to have failsafe communication between field units with their Headquarters for a period of five year w.e.f. 31st May, 2011, which was later extended to 31st March, 2018. NECP Phase-II was further extended upto 31st March, 2020.

MHA promptly finalize the proposals of NDRF in consultation with NDMA. After receiving the advice of NDMA, the present proposal to review the communication equipments of NDRF has been sent for financial concurrence.”

Observations & Recommendations

1. Natural and man-made disasters have had their sad history in India. With a worrying climate change in the last few decades, the Country has seen many disasters like floods in various States like Bihar, Kashmir and Uttarakhand and in cities like Mumbai and Chennai, Indian Ocean Tsunami, Gujarat Earthquake, Odisha super cyclone etc. Hence, the need for a dedicated force like NDRF was felt and consequently the same has been raised by the Government. The Committee note the achievements of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in dealing with various types of disasters in the Country since its inception in 2006. It, quite appreciably, has not only rescued and evacuated innumerable human lives but also rescued livestock during their operations, with professional expertise and requisite dedication so far. The Committee have been made to understand that during the time of the setting up of NDRF, there were many challenges before the Government and hence, it was decided to consider NDRF as 100% deputationist force, drawing personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for a period of 7 years, with the objective to keep it as a young force. Besides, being at the peak of physical agility, Youth force is dynamic in nature as most skills and orientations are acquired in this age. The Committee, hence, recommend that while the concept of 100% deputationist force is apt for the purpose, it may be reviewed to include participation of suitably fit and trained youth from other organizations too, for instance, senior NCC cadets, for operational and administrative purposes in NDRF. The upper age of 45 as fixed may continue. As India has one of the youngest populations in the world,

this will also help in availability of additional employment opportunities for the youth in the Country.

2. The Committee are happy to note that through NDRF, the Government have raised a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, stand-alone force capable of effectively responding to all types of disasters and disaster like situations and to mitigate the effects of disasters. In this connection, they note that the National Policy on Disaster Management -2009 also mandates NDRF for Capacity Building of the community. The Force is relentlessly engaged in the "community capacity building and Public Awareness and preparedness programme of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) involving State Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire Services, NCC Cadets, NGOs, NYKS, Students, Volunteers and other stakeholders. Such capacity building programmes are conducted when the NDRF is not engaged in disaster response or relief works. The need of training is being worked out/ prioritized by the NDRF Units based on the vulnerability profile of the districts, as per the Vulnerability Atlas prepared by BMTPC. Accordingly, the syllabus and Training Programme is being prepared by the Board of Instructors in consultation with the experienced officials of field formations and duly approved by the Competent Authority.

The Committee further note that in order to cater to the training needs of NDRF personnel and other stakeholders, the Government of India had approved on 27th September, 2018, the creation of a NDRF Academy by merging it with National Civil Defence College, Nagpur. Currently the Academy is being run at the erstwhile NCDL campus at Civil Lines, Nagpur. New infrastructure project for

the Academy has been reportedly sanctioned at a total project cost of ₹ 125 Crore, possession of 153 acre of land has already been taken and the foundation stone for the project laid in 2020. Construction work has been in progress now. The Committee hope that a complete construction schedule, funds allocation and utilization details and date of completion of new Academy building project has been worked out and desire that it may be provided to them. They also desire the Government to ensure that the project is completed in the stipulated time and within cost schedules. The Committee are desirous of being apprised about its current status.

3. The Committee note that NDRF is largely satisfied with the Government fiscal support to them in the last three years, which has been ₹ 1101.41 crore, 1140.74 crore and 1281.44 crore during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively of which funds for OB, i.e. infrastructure, are very important. An adequate infrastructure is the sine quo non of every Battalion and the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs, during their evidence, have assured the Committee that 80-90 percent work of infrastructure will be completed by the end of this Financial Year and remaining will be completed by the middle of next Financial Year. However, an analysis of the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual expenditures since 2016-17 shows that the Capital budget provision in BE and RE is less than 50% of the Revenue Budget Estimates and actual expenditure in the past. The Committee have also observed the fact that over the years the actual expenditure in Capital Sector has largely been showing a declining trend, which may hamper the plan of building infrastructure for NDRF Battalions. The

Committee, therefore, would like the Ministry to clarify as to how they plan to complete all infrastructure work for NDRF Battalions with a decrease in funds allocated for Capital assets. They recommend that immediate remedial measures may be undertaken to address fund reduction/lapse in Capital Sector in consultation with the Ministry of Finance lest the target dates for completion of the project would need extensions, leading to cost overruns as well as an adverse impact on the capacity augmentation of NDRF Battalions.

4. The Committee further observe that though Government have been allocating sufficient funds, an analysis of the Budget Estimates and Actual Expenditures since 2016-17 depicts that the budget provision for training of NDRF personnel at domestic and international level has remained rather low, i.e. between ₹ 1 to 2 crore and even its utilization has not been 100%, as it has mainly remained in the range of 50% to 80%. The Committee are of the view that adequate measures should be introduced for State-of-the-art training of NDRF personnel and also for providing basic, advance and additional courses free of cost by NDRF to SDRF personnel. Since disasters may occur at any time, a regular mechanism should be evolved to ensure fitness and preparedness of NDRF/SDRF personnel throughout the year. This calls for enhanced BE for training as well as 100% utilization of the same. There is, thus, a need to review the budget provision under the Heads of Account like OAE and FTE, which have shown less allocation and its utilisation during the last five years. To address the same, the Committee strongly recommend that the factors responsible for less utilisation may be identified and rectified immediately. They also desire that the

Ministry should prepare adequate advance plans for training of NDRF personnel further and project better budgetary requirements before Ministry of Finance at the Supplementary Grant/next year's BE stage.

5. The Committee note that infrastructure development at 11 Bns, 10 team locations and NDRF Academy has been approved at a total estimated cost of ₹ 1272.26 crore. The infrastructure development, however, reportedly got delayed due to several reasons like time taken for land allotment/acquisition and clearance procedures by the local bodies, other local issues, Covid-19 pandemic impact and in case of Battalions, at Assam and Krishna, due to change of land by the State Government. Nonetheless, now the infrastructure at six Bn locations viz. Kolkata, Mundali, Arakkonam, Pune, Vadodara and Krishna and six team locations at Siliguri, Kolkata, Dwarka, Vishakhapatnam, Bengaluru and Balasore have been completed. Other Bns. at Ludhiana, Ghaziabad and Patna and team locations at Dehradun, Kishangarh and Supaul are reportedly near completion and will be completed by 2021-22. The Committee hope that no major cost overruns were experienced due to the delay and would like to be apprised of the latest position of infrastructure projects at the action taken stage. They further desire that the facilities completed must be put to maximum use by the Battalions.

However, few cases need attention. In one case at Guwahati, the Committee were informed that the land allocated for 1Bn falls under eco-sensitive zone and, if alternative land is provided by the State Government, the work will be completed by 2024. The Committee are surprised to note as to how the Ministry

has committed to complete the work by March 2024, when there is no alternative land made available by the State Government presently. Similarly, for RRC/Team location at Gandhinagar 06 Bn., while approval for selection of a PSU for the same is pending with MHA, the date of completion has already been fixed for 31.03.2023. The Committee hence desire to know status of both these projects, and in case of their non-completion, suggest that before finalising the date of completion of infrastructure work of above Bns., the NDRF may take up the matter at the highest level of the Assam Government and the MHA too for early resolution first and then finalise a realistic date for their completion. The outcome of these efforts may be apprised at the action taken stage.

With regard to RRC/Team locations in 10 cities, the Committee were informed about likely completion in 7 places by 31.3.2022. They desire to be apprised of the progress thereof too.

6. The Committee appreciate that the Government have been assessing the strength of NDRF from time to time since its inception, with the result that the strength of the Force has increased from 8 Bns in 2006 to 10 Bns in 2010 and 12 Bns in 2015. However, as it was felt to further increase the strength, the Government have decided to raise 4 new Bns of NDRF and boost the availability of sufficient manpower to meet the requirement of prompt response during any disaster situation, with all operational and administrative power vested in the Director-General, NDRF.

The Committee also note that the Ministry, in its written reply, have submitted that out of new Bns being raised, the process of raising 1 Bn. from BSF had started but out of 139 personnel selected for the same, only 103 could join and due to acute shortage of manpower in BSF, 36 personnel will be joining after March, 2022. In this connection, the Committee note that out of total 16 Bns. of NDRF, only 3 Bn. have been taken from BSF. The Committee feel that out of all forces, perhaps, BSF is the only force which faces difficulty to provide manpower to NDRF, despite the fact that since 2006, Government have sanctioned 171 new Battalions in various CAPFs, which include 35 Bns. in the BSF, a rather large number. However, if these new battalions are in place now, the Committee are surprised at BSF expressing acute shortage of 36 persons for deputing to NDRF. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should look into the reasons for BSF not providing requisite personnel to NDRF and ensure a mechanism for regular/periodic assessment of requirement of NDRF personnel for availability of manpower sufficient to meet the demand due to growing number of natural and manmade disasters in the Country.

7. The Committee note that where forecast/early warning of floods, cyclones, tsunamis etc. is available, the NDRF positions its teams, in consultation with respective State. The pre-positioning is made as a measure of pro-active response to deal with the impending disaster. After assessment of the situation, if potentially unmanageable by the State, UT and in case additional teams are required by the State, adequate additional NDRF teams are deployed even by airlifting from other Battalion locations. It is noteworthy that the Central

Government does not charge any amount from States/UTs for deployment of NDRF. The Indian Air Force and Indian Railways statedly have been assisting NDRF in mobilisation of force to the disasters. The Committee appreciate that NDRF has been getting support of Indian Air Force and Indian Railways for mobilisation of Force and hope that the SOP for ensuring better coordination and communication among NDRF Air Force, Railways and other agencies has been established. They further note that for unforeseen disasters, mock drills, enhancement of vehicles for swift movement, review of communication equipment, training of SDRF Personnel on special request etc. has been undertaken by NDRF. The Committee hope that the preparedness will be continued since it is the best step to manage a disaster and minimize the damage to life and property.

8. The Committee note that to deal an emergency/disaster, the Government have introduced 'Aapda Mitra Scheme'. In the first phase of the scheme, 18 to 40 years old persons have been provided training and more than 7000 persons have since been trained. In the second phase, 350 disaster prone districts have been identified and for each such district, the Government have proposed to train 1 lakh persons in the three year period of 2020-2023 with a total financial outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore. The Committee are happy to note that these initiatives have been started in the Country as a precautionary measure to deal with disasters. However, the Committee are of the view that while the Government has been conducting mock drills, they should also incorporate proper disaster evacuation training at School/Colleges levels to prepare a large number of young persons, in

line with the practice followed in countries like Japan, Israel etc. The Government should also consider giving certificates/awards to trained youth according to their level of training viz. Level 1, Level 2, etc. The Committee also note that Aapda Mitra Scheme has to be implemented in 3 years with an outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore, which will be completed this year. They, therefore, hope that the Government will utilise the Outlay in the stipulated time frame and complete the target.

9. The Committee note that the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been set up as planning, coordinating and implementing bodies for disaster management and to take all measures in the districts, as per the guidelines laid down by National and State Authorities. DDMAs have been constituted in all the districts. The Committee further note that so far 7000 community volunteers in 30 most flood prone Districts of 25 States have been trained under 'Aapda Mitra Scheme' which is intended to be increased to 1 lakh and feel that such efforts need to continue to cover other disaster prone areas in Hill districts too where landslides, cloudbursts, earthquakes etc. are increasingly being experienced. The Committee also note that Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 mandates that every district of a State shall prepare their Disaster Management Plan (DMP). This includes the areas in the district vulnerable to different form of disasters and DMP of a district has to be drawn up by the State Disaster Management Authority. So far out of 732 districts in the Country, 673 districts have drawn their DMP. Guidelines prepared by NDMA for management of specific disasters are to be taken into account by the concerned

authorities while preparing their DMP. The Committee desire that the DMPs of remaining 59 districts also need to be prepared and approved expeditiously in a time bound manner. They may be apprised of the progress in this regard. The Committee are happy to note that NDMA brings awareness of disasters through electronic and print media. However, they are of the view that to strengthen States' capacities in disaster education, regular mock drills may be conducted and physical camps set up in disaster prone districts of the Country with the help of retired CAPF personnel, suitably trained senior NCC Cadets residing in the district, so that trained citizens can act as first responders during the time of any disaster. The Committee further opine that BSF and SSB should also provide assistance/support to NDRF/SDRF in case a need is felt during any disaster. The Committee desire the Ministry to consider these measures and apprise them of action taken on the same.

10. The Moto of National Disaster Response Force is "Saving Lives and Beyond". They do not differentiate whether there is human life or animal life. If any animal is also trapped in some place, then they rescue it. Rescue of wild animals during forest fires is a case in point here. In this connection, the Committee note that the NDRF has been working with the Forest Department to deal with forest fire. However, in so far as inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters to be tackled by the NDRF is concerned, the matter is reportedly under consultation with stakeholders concerned. Forest fire is a growing threat globally now. The incidents of forests fires not only damage the forest resources but also damage the biodiversity, cause climate change, adversely impact Tribal livelihood

and lead to severe distress among flora and fauna of forests. In view of the increase of forest fire incidents in the recent past in the country, the Committee feel that the decision for inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters by NDRF needs to be taken expeditiously. Due to the limited capacity of Forest Department to fight huge forest fires, it is high time that the same is tackled by a highly trained force on disasters. The Committee desire to be apprised of any progress on this matter.

11. The Regional Response Centres (RRCs) of CAPFs were created based on the vulnerability profile of the Country to provide immediate response during disasters and in due course, most of these RRCs were handed over to NDRF. Usually, 10,000 sq. ft. (approx.) built up area or 05 acres land is required for a RRC. At present there are 28 RRCs in various States/UTs. Only 07 States/ UTs viz. Goa, Meghalaya, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry do not have any NDRF Bn/ RRC. However, these States/ UTs are stated to be covered by nearby NDRF Battalion/ RRC location. The Committee are of the opinion that keeping in view the increasing incidents of disasters, the Government may consider creation of Regional Response Centre in these States/UTs, most of which are coastal and thus prone to disasters like tsunamis, oil spills etc. In this connection, the Committee would like to draw attention to the Konkan Region of Maharashtra also, which is disaster prone yet is in need of small helicopters to be fully equipped to handle the same. The Committee are also of the strong opinion that no State is safe from disasters

hence all States should be advised to facilitate their SDRFs expeditiously. The Committee desire to know any progress on the same.

12. The Committee note that under the National Emergency Communication Plan Phase-II, the review of communication equipment of NDRF Battalions was carried out in the year 2011 and accordingly, requisite equipment were provided to ensure fail-safe communication between field units with their headquarters for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 31 May, 2011 and the same was first extended upto 31 March, 2018 and further extended upto 31 March, 2020. The Committee feel that the prevailing practice for review of communication equipment of NDRF needs attention particularly when the communication technology has been taking rapid strides. They, therefore, desire that the review of communication equipment may be conducted in a shorter period now. The Committee also note that the proposal to review the communication equipment of NDRF has already been sent for financial concurrence after receiving the advice of NDMA. The Committee therefore, desire the Government to pursue the proposal and obtain financial concurrence expeditiously without further delay.

13. The Committee note that all CAPFs have been requested to provide 108 women (Mahila) personnel for each NDRF Bn. within the strength of NDRF for rescue and relief operations especially for women victims. However, so far only 170 such personnel have joined the NDRF. The Committee appreciate the idea of participation of Mahila personnel in the NDRF. They would like to know as to how the number of 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Bns. has been worked out. The Committee are also of the view that sports women and senior NCC women

cadets, who are physically fit and fulfil NDRF pre-conditions, may be considered for induction so that presence of adequate Mahila personnel in each NDRF Bn. can be ensured within a stipulated time frame.

14. The Committee note that to enhance the operational efficiency, additional equipment (Cutting tools) has been authorized to NDRF and also the authorization of Deep Diving equipment has also been revised. In 2017, to enable swift movement of NDRF teams from NDRF Battalion the number of vehicles was enhanced from 80 to 104 per Battalion. The Committee, when examine the details of authorized and existing number of various Disaster response equipment under different categories, are surprised to note that there has been a huge gap in large number of such items like Brick Hammer, chipping Hammer Bits pointed, Chipping Hammer Bits Flat, Multi para monitor, Oxygen Concentrator, Pulse Oxymeter and Nebuliser. They also find that about 10 items, which are authorised to NDRF, does not form part of it. In addition to this, the Committee also find that there has been a huge shortage of almost all the items authorised to NDRF. The Committee desire the Ministry to understand the gravity of adverse impact of such a big shortage of equipment on disaster relief management in the past and future too. The Committee desire to know the mechanism as to how authorisation of equipment is undertaken and their numbers analysed and finalised. The Committee strongly recommend that shortage of equipment under different categories may be reviewed in a time bound manner and the remaining equipment procured without further delay.

15. The Committee, while applauding the commendable job carried out by NDRF in rescuing the people and animals during disasters in the country and abroad, recommend that there should be a mechanism for post disaster review to identify any shortcomings and further strengthen improve their preparedness. Lessons learnt from past disasters and post disaster should apply on various fields such as (a) need for better logistics and supply chain management (including procurement, warehousing, transportation and communication) (b) training of personnel as reserve manpower to meet surges in demand (c) clear delineation of responsibilities and robust communication lines (d) coordination of partner agencies, local government, State Government (e) adequate compensation for the victims etc. With passage of time, the aim of NDRF should not only confined to rescue operations, but also overall National Disaster Risk Reduction. The thematic areas should be (i) prevention and mitigation (ii) preparedness (iii) response (iv) recovery and rehabilitation. The Committee would like to believe that a dialogue on the same has already started, based on the NDRF experience so far. Hence, they desire to be apprised of the future vision of the Ministry with regard to disaster prevention and preparedness thereof, particularly in the present scenario of impending disasters due to adverse climatic events/armed conflicts and similar such disasters which are increasing in their intensity all over the world now.

NEW DELHI;
31 March, 2022
10 Chaitra, 1944 (Saka)

GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

The Committee on Estimates for 1965-66 has been constituted by the Government of India. The Committee will be headed by the Minister in charge of the Estimates. The Committee will be responsible for the preparation of the estimates for the Government of India. The Committee will also be responsible for the preparation of the estimates for the Government of India. The Committee will also be responsible for the preparation of the estimates for the Government of India.

CHIEF ESTIMATES OFFICER
COMMISSIONER
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

SECRETARY
ESTIMATES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

8

PPM to DG, NDRF
Dek Diary No. 1349
Date 13.12.14

F.No.2-2/2010-NDRF
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs/Grih Mantralaya
Disaster Management Division

3rd Floor, 'B' Wing, NDCC-II Building,
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi
Dated, the 16th Dec, 2014.

To
The Director General,
National Disaster Response Force
East Block No. VII, Level-07
R.K. Puram, New Delhi-66.

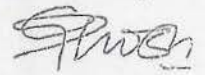
Subject: Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for deployment of NDRF.

Sir,

I am directed to refer the subject mentioned above and to say that the competent authority has approved SOP prepared by NDRF after making some corrections. Corrected SOP is returned herewith with the request to circulate the same to all States/UTs accordingly.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


(Goutam Ghosh)
Deputy Secretary (DM-I)
Tel No.23438123

HQ DE NDRF R. K. Puram, New Delhi
LDG NDRF
DG NDRF
DIG (Adm)
DIG (Trg/Ops)
DIG (Prso/Prov)
2-IC (Trg/Ops)
DC (Adm)
DC (Comm)
Sr. AO
Secy
Diary No
Date

19/12

urgent pls

9/62

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES (GENERAL)

1. INTRODUCTION :

DISASTER

"A catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man-made causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of property, or damage to, and degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area"

India has traditionally been vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions and it has, of late, like all other countries in the world, become equally vulnerable to various man-made disasters. The periodicity and intensity of disasters have increased manifold in the last few decades. In many disasters, human and economic losses could have been minimized by taking preventive, mitigation and preparedness measures. Anti-national elements find terrorism easy to adopt and cost-effective. A terrorist attack involving Nuclear, Biological and Chemical agents differs from a normal terrorist attack as it results in specific effects on health and can cause fatal injuries, creates panic, affects the morale of the community, and lowers its faith in the government. The important ingredients of an effective response system are integrated institutional arrangements, state of the art forecasting and early warning systems, failsafe communication system, rapid evacuation of threatened communities, quick deployment of specialized response forces and coordination and synergy among various agencies at various levels in dealing with any disaster. Most importantly, all the agencies and their functionaries must clearly understand their roles and responsibilities and the specific actions they have to take for responding to disaster or disaster threatening situations. **THIS SOP LAYS DOWN, IN A COMPREHENSIVE MANNER, THE SPECIFIC ACTIONS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN BY NDRF BNS FOR RESPONDING TO NATURAL AND MAN MADE DISASTER OF ANY MAGNITUDE AND ANY DIMENSION.**

2. TYPES OF DISASTER WHERE NDRF WILL RESPOND

(i) Major Natural Disasters:-

- a) Earthquakes
- b) Floods
- c) Cyclones
- d) Landslides
- e) Tsunamis
- f) Avalanches

(ii) Man Made Disasters:-

- a) Chemical disasters.
- b) Biological disasters.
- c) Radiological and Nuclear events
- d) Train Accidents.
- e) Building collapse events.

(iii) Any other disaster, for which the State / District authorities make a specific requisition, with the exception of fire accidents.

3. ROLE OF NDRF

- 1) Provide specialised response for rescue and relief in case of disasters-natural and manmade.
- 2) Deployment in case of impending disasters.
- 3) Assistance to civil authorities in distribution of relief material during/after disaster.
- 4) Co-ordination with other agencies engaged in rescue/relief work

4. NDRF TASKS

- 1) Deployment in case of impending disaster.
- 2) Provide specialist response in case of disasters which covers
 - a) NBC Disaster (Decontamination of the area and personnel).
 - b) Removal of debris.
 - c) Extrication of victims-live or dead.
 - d) First medical response to victims.
 - e) To extend moral support to victims.
 - f) Assistance to civil authorities in distribution of relief material.
- 3) Co-ordination with sister agencies.

5. AIM OF THE SOP

To provide, in a concise and convenient form, a list of major executive actions involved in responding to natural and manmade disasters and the necessary measures for preparedness, response and relief required to be taken. To achieve maximum result in minimum time for any force, a well defined Operating Procedure is required to be framed. This procedure is called the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP is made keeping in view the role and the objectives of the force. In the case of NDRF, the force has to respond within the minimum time frame to reach the place of disaster with the designated required equipment. The SOP has been prepared keeping in mind the motto of NDRF, i.e. 'AAPADA SEWA SADAIV'.

6. REQUISITION FOR RESPONSE OF THE NDRF DURING PRE- DISASTER PHASE

State Government may request for pre-positioning of the Unit/Sub-units of the NDRF as a measure of pro-active response to deal with the impending disaster when there are plausible reasons to believe that gravity of the disaster will be unmanageable for the State Government. The contact numbers and place of deployment of NDRF units are given at Appendix-"A"

7. REQUISITION FOR RESPONSE OF THE NDRF DURING DISASTER PHASE

State government or the concern District Magistrate may request for the specialized disaster response of the Team (s) or Coy (s) of the NDRF to deal with the disaster when it is of Level-III. i.e. when the gravity of the disaster is so severe that it becomes unmanageable for the State government to deal with even after having made the proper use of SDRF.

8. REQUISITIONING AUTHORITY

The following State Government Authorities can seek requisition for NDRF teams along with complete details of the disaster which takes place in their area of responsibility :-

- Principal Secretaries of the States dealing with Disaster Management
- Relief Commissioners of the States
- Collectors/DCs /DMs of the districts

Maximum available details which would be required to provide rescue and relief should be passed on to the identified NDRF Bn, as per requisition form attached at Appendix - B.

9. AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT REQUISITION

NDRF Teams can be requisitioned for natural as well as manmade disasters. This requisition can be sent to the following:-

- MHA
- NDMA
- HQ DG NDRF
- NDRF BNs.

MHA & NDMA in turn will direct HQ DG NDRF for deployment of NDRF personal which will be done accordingly after consultation with respective Commandant and same will be intimated to MHA & NDMA.

In case the requisition is placed directly to NDRF Bns due to emergent nature of situation, the Commandants will deploy NDRF personnel immediately and intimate the same to HQ DG NDRF/ MHA / NDMA.

10. DECISION OF DEPLOYMENT

As per the provision of DM act 2005, the District Management Authorities chaired by District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner/District Collector of a District shall be responsible for overall supervision and monitoring of Disaster Management in the district. The District Authorities will give the detailed information about any disaster to the respective NDRF unit. The Unit Commandant, after getting detailed information form the Nodal officer, will consult HQ NDRF and decide the quantum of deployment for the said disaster i.e how many teams to be deployed for the subject operation. HQ NDRF will intimate the subject deployment to MHA DM(Div) and NDMA through the fastest mode of

communication also. The team which will move for rescue work will be self-contained and carry tentage, medicines ready-made food for 72 hrs, ration and utensils for them.

11. MOBILISATION PHASE

Bn Commandant in consultation with the State authority will decide mode of conveyance of the teams to be deployed for the said emergency response. Firstly one advance party will rush for the disaster site followed by the main body in their own transportation. If the air lifting is to be done, then the requisition will go to Air Authority through the State Authority. The State Authority will arrange accommodation, if possible and transportation at disaster site. The State will be responsible for providing security backup to the teams during deployment.

12. OPERATIONAL PHASE

It is important to mention here that NDRF is not tasked with the maintenance of law and order in a disaster zone area. Furthermore, the safety and security of the victim and personnel involved in the search, rescue and relief operation including the NDRF personnel shall also be the responsibility of State/Local Authorities.

13. DEMOBILISATION PHASE

This phase describes the actions required to be taken when coys/teams have been instructed that disaster management operations are to be ceased and withdrawal has to be commenced by Coy Comdr/Team Comdr in consultation with the nodal officer and after getting clearance from HQ DG NDRF. The exit strategy will be executed as per the initial plan of action. All coy comdrs/team comdrs must try and ensure a handover note specifying what is being handed over and to whom to ensure proper preparedness and a smooth transition. A detailed report should be prepared by the Bn after the operation is over and file for record with HQs NDRF. This report should make a clear mention of immediate steps to be taken to fill the gaps or seek any improvement in the existing system. Following actions are to be ensured:-

1. Mode of transportation will be decided for de-induction in consultation with the State Authority. The State authorities

shall be responsible for providing the transport to the NDRF teams to return to their units.

2. Clearance from local authorities.
3. EOC, along with the adm base, shall be the last to demobilize from the disaster site.

14. POST DISASTER PHASE

It is a phase for critical analysis of the entire rescue operation carried by the Bn. The joint appraisal report of the performance shall also be prepared by the Bn commandant and State authority after de-induction of the rescue teams. After this, a report regarding the shortcomings of the rescue operations and the lessons learnt will also be drawn up. The post disaster phase will also include:

- a) Submission of the post-disaster report.
- b) Conducting of a lesson-learnt review to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency for response to future disaster.
- c) Repair and maintenance of equipment
- d) Condemnation of equipment.
- e) Medical check ups of all members of operational groups.
- f) Treatment for injured troops during rescue operations.
- g) Accounting for rescue material used and not used.
- h) Accounting for rescue material lost/not retrieved.
- i) Drawing a case study of entire disaster rescue operation.
- j) Post psychometric treatment i.e. men must be sent to meet their family members.

15. CONCLUSION

This SOP is a guideline for successful response in any kind of disaster. It should be followed in letter and spirit. It is only then that NDRF will prove its worth in an effective manner and be seen as an elite force in the field of disaster management.

Appendix-'A'HO DG NDRF, NDCC-II BUILDING JAI SINGH ROAD, NEW DELHI

Sl No.	Rank	Office Number
1.	DG	011-23438020 011-23438119
2.	IG	011-23438021
3.	DIG	011-23438023
4.	Control Room	011-23438091 011-23438136

DEPLOYMENT OF NDRF BATTALIONS

S/No	Name of Bn	Rank/Contact No.	Area of responsibility (State wise)	Control Room Contact No.
01	01 Bn NDRF, Guwahati (Assam)	Commandant 09401307887 (M) 0361-2843406 (O)	Assam (24 Districts) Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram	0361-2840284 9401048790 9435117246
02	02 Bn NDRF Haringhata, Nadia (WB)	Commandant 09434742836 (M) 033-25873607 (O)	West Bengal & Sikkim,	9474061104 033-25737080
03	03 Bn NDRF Mundali (Odisha)	Commandant 09437964571 (M) 0671-2879710 (O)	Odisha & Chhattisgarh.	0671 - 2879711 9437581614 9937187222
04	04 Bn NDRF Arakkonam (Tamilnadu)	Commandant 07358232058 04177- 246269 (O)	Kerala, Tamil Nadu , Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep.	04177-246594
05	05 Bn NDRF Pune (Maharashtra)	Commandant 09423506765(M) 02114-247010 (O) 02114-231343 (R)	Maharashtra & Goa	02114-247000 02114-247008
06	06 Bn NDRF, Vadodara (Gujarat)	Commandant 09428826445 (M) 02668-274470 (O)	Gujarat, Rajasthan, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu	02668-274470 02668-274245 9429469388
07	07 Bn NDRF, Bhatinda (Punjab)	Commandant 09417802032(M) 0164-2246030(O) 0164-2246930 (R)	Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh Punjab, J&K.	0164 - 2246570 9465884344
08	08 Bn NDRE, Ghaziabad (UP)	Commandant 09968610014 (M) 0120-2766013 (O)	Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (18 District)	0120 - 2766618 0120 - 2766012 9412221035
09	09 Bn NDRF Patna (Bihar)	Commandant 07762884444 (M) 06115-253942 (O)	Bihar & Jharkhand	06115-253939 8544415049 8544415050
10	10 Bn NDRF, Vijaywada (Andhra Pradesh)	Commandant 07382299621(M) 0863-2293178 (O)	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Telangana	0863-2293050 08333068559

11	11 Bn NDRF Varanasi (UP)	Commandant 09455511107(M) 0542-2501202 (O)	Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (57 Districts)	0542-2501101 8004931410
12	12 Bn NDRF Doimukh Arunachal Pradesh	Commandant 09485236141(M) 0360-2279104 (O)	Assam (09 districts), Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Nagaland	0360-2277106 9485235464

FORM TO REQUISITION NDRF TEAM(S)

1. Date of requisition :
 2. Nature of Disaster/purpose of requisitioning NDRF team :
 3. Date & time of occurrence :
 4. Details of affected Area & population :
 5. No. of teams being requisitioned :
 6. Nearest Railhead :
 7. Nearest Airport :
(In case NDRF teams are to be airlifted, it is requested to place the requisition to Indian Air Force with copy to DM Div. MHA, NDMA & HQ NDRF)
 8. Agencies already involved in rescue operation
 - i) Central agencies (Please also provide nodal person's contact) :
 - ii) State agencies (Please also provide nodal person's contact) :
 9. Trapped/ rescued/ evacuated & missing persons
 - i) No. of persons trapped :
 - ii) No. of persons Rescued/ Evacuated :
 - iii) No. of persons Missing :
 10. Nodal Officer of State/Distt.
 - i) Name :
 - ii) Contact No. :
 - iii) Address :
 11. Any other relevant information :
- Signature of requisitioning authority
- Name :
- Phone No. :
- Address :

MINUTES OF EIGHTEENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES(2020-21)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 8th April, 2021 from 1450 hrs. to 1600 hrs. in Committee Room No. '1', First Floor, Block-A, Parliament House Annexe, Extension Building, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat - Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Shri Kunwar Danish Ali
3. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
4. Shri P.P. Chaudhary
5. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
6. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
7. Shri Dayanidhi Maran
8. Shri K. Muraleedharan
9. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
10. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
11. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
12. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
13. Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha
14. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharama
15. Shri Kesineni Srinivas
16. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. A. Jyothirmayi - Additional Director
2. Shri R.S. Negi - Deputy Secretary

WITNESSES

1. Shri Govind Mohan - Additional Secretary (UT), MHA
2. Shri S.N. Pradhan - Director-General, NDRF

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee and briefed them about the agenda of the Sitting viz. evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs in connection with the examination of the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force'. He also informed the Members that Home Secretary had requested for exemption from attending the sitting of the Committee owing to exigency. After a brief discussion, the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs were called in to depose before the Committee.

3. The Chairperson welcomed the representatives of Home Affairs and asked them to introduce themselves to the Committee. He drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings of the Committee.

4. Thereafter, the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs and NDRF made a power point presentation. Then the Members raised several queries/suggestions on the issues related to the subject which inter-alia included financial allocation from Centre, Contribution of States, responsibility of NDRF, SDRF, Training to SDRF, participation of NCC during disasters, availability of Helicopter to meet the demand that so arise, participation of women in Force, inclusion of disaster management in the curriculum in schools and colleges and so on.

The Chairperson then withdrew and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy Chaired the rest of the Sitting.

Members further sought clarifications on problems being faced due to shortage of funds allocation, details on the recent disaster in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, Training and awareness for locals living in disaster prone areas, animal attacks in human habitats, steps taken for specialized and immediate response, handling of equipment more efficiently, augmenting the Force, Disaster training in all school and colleges, forest fire, service related issues of personnel and so on.

5. The queries of the Members were duly responded to by the representatives of the Ministry and NDRF. The acting Chairperson then thanked the witnesses for giving useful information and asked them to furnish written replies to the points which could not be responded to during the Sitting.

6. The verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee has been kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2021-2022)

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 31st March, 2022 from 1600 hrs. to 1650 hrs. in Room No. '52-B', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat - Chairperson

Members

2. Kunwar Danish Ali
3. Shri Sudharshan Bhagat
4. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
5. Shri Hariṣh Dwivedi
6. Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda Gaddigoudar
7. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
8. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
9. Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanji Kundariya
10. Shri Dayanidhi Maran
11. Shri K. Muraleedharan
12. Dr. K.C. Patel
13. Shri Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy
14. Shri Dilip Saikia
15. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
16. Shri Prathap Simha
17. Shri Kesineni Srinivas

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Muraleedharan. P - Director
2. Smt. Geeta Parmar - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee took up for consideration the following draft Reports and adopted the same with some additions/modifications as shown in Annexure A and B respectively:

(i) Draft Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Estimates(17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(ii) xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx

3. The Committee then authorised the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports on the basis of factual verification received from the concerned Ministry and present the same to Lok Sabha.

4. xxx xxx xxx xxx xxx

ANNEXURE 'A'

AMENDMENTS/MODIFICATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE DRAFT THIRTEENTH REPORT

Page No.	Para No.	Line No.	For	Read
36	8	11	After : like Japan Add : Israel etc.	
37	9	21	After : CAPF personnel Add : suitably trained senior NCC Cadets	
37	9	22	After : disaster Add : The Committee further opine that BSF and SSB should also provide assistance/support to NDRF/SDRF in case a need is felt during any disaster. The Committee desire the Ministry to consider these measures and apprise them of any action taken on the same.	
38	11	11	After : oil spills etc. Add : In this connection, the Committee would like to draw attention to the Konkan region of Maharashtra also, which is disaster prone yet is in need of small helicopters to be fully equipped to handle the same.	
41	15	9	After : State Government Add : (e) adequate compensation for the victims	