

CALLING ATTENTION

SUB: CALLING ATTENTION NO. 3 TABLED BY SHRI DIGAMBAR KAMAT , LEADER OF OPPOSITION, RAMKRISHNA DHAVALIKAR, ROHAN KHAUNTE, VIJAY SARDESSAI, PRASAD GAONKAR AND VINOD PALIENKAR, MLA.

"Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people of the State due to the current floods in the various parts of the State and consequent loss of life, property, fields live stock, breakage of bunds, various man made disasters, which includes floods especially Guirim field flooding due to shoddy work of Contractor alongwith environmental disasters such as Cyclone Tauktae are due to unplanned and unscientific planning and also due to the lack of immediate response from the National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force which exposes the failure of the Disaster Management Cell. The planning should be based on ecological and topographical terrains. The steps the Government proposes to take in this regard."

REPLY TO CALLING ATTENTION BY HON'BLE MINISTER FOR REVENUE

Goa being the coastal State on the western side of the Western Ghats receives heavy South West Monsoon rain every year. Preparation to mitigate the adverse effect of the annual monsoon is a top priority for the Government. Therefore, even during the Covid peak, a preparatory meeting of the State Disaster Management Authority was held on 29th April 2021 with all the stakeholders under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister to review the preparedness of all the department for upcoming monsoons. The preventive actions undertaken are listed hereunder:

- All the Municipalities and Panchayats carry out the cleaning of drains and desilting of nullahs to prevent the stagnation of water.
- Control rooms are activated at the State and District level. After receiving an IMD warning, all keyline departments and Search & Rescue Teams were alerted.
- District communication plans were updated and shared widely. IMD warnings are updated on the SDMA website and shared with all the line departments and media and forwarded on all State, District, Taluka, Village Panchayat and Municipal bodies level whatsapp groups.
- The Indian Coast Guard Ships were deployed at sea from 13th May onwards. The Fisheries Department activated its control room and Fisheries officers/surveyors posted at jetty 24X7. The WINDY app was widely used.

Recent Floods

In addition to the above planned actions, a warning issued by IMD and WRD was widely circulated. Due to intense rain, flooding was observed on 23rd and 24th July, 2021 in the State of Goa affecting the life, property, fields, livestock, breakage of bunds.

The District Administration activated the disaster response teams The Collectors of both the district, concerned Dy.Collectors were at the flood affected areas right from 6.00 a.m. till 9.00 p.m. alongwith Department officials of PWD, Electricity, WRD, Fire & Emergency Services, Police and Municipal Administration to provide immediate relief to the affected persons/ villages. Helicopters from Coastguard were also used in evacuation operations. About 800 people in different Talukas were evacuated and sheltered in many schools or community centres.

Relief Distribution: Dry ration and groceries were procured from the Directorate of Civil Supplies and were distributed (Sattari Taluka -1.25 MT, Dharbandora – 1.5 MT and Ponda – 3.5 MT). In addition, the following relief items were also distributed:-

Taluka	No. of ration kits	No. of hygiene kits	No. of Blankets/ Bedsheet	Mattresses	Towels Pillow Covers	Shelter kits
Bardez	180	180	180	180	180	--
Sattari	150	150	150	--	--	250
Bicholim	200	200	200	--	--	--
Ponda	1000	1000	1000	--	--	--
Dharbandora	200	200	200	--	--	250
Sanguem	100	100	100	--	--	--

Hygiene kits were distributed through CSR. During floods there was disruption in electricity and Mobile connectivity which was restored within 24 hours. A team of senior Officers was constituted to visit all talukas of the District. The Officers visited the flood affected areas and directed the relief work to be undertaken at each of the flood affected area/village.

A joint inspection team consisting of taluka-wise Mamlatdar, Assistant Engineer, PWD (Bldgs.), Assistant Engineer (Electricity) and Block Development Officer of respective jurisdiction has been constituted to assess the damages to houses/properties of the affected victims of the flood in a time bound manner which is under process. Further relief work is in progress.

As regards to flooding at Guirim, it is due to work on the National Highway in progress which will be restored once the work is completed. Also, the claims that sudden release of water from Anjunem dam caused flooding is unfounded. The dam was operated as per norms and safety precautions.

CYCLONE 'TAUKTAE'

The initial information about the possible Cyclonic Storm "Tauktae" was received from Indian Meteorological Department Goa Station on 12/05/2021. Predicting that, from 14/05/2021, there will be gale with winds speed reaching upto 60-70 km/h and gusting up to 80 km/h that may disrupt power supply, cause falling of trees and weak structures which was regularly informed to the District Collectors, Fire and Emergency Services, Police Fisheries Department, Electricity Department, Water Resources Department Tourism Department and other stakeholder departments for necessary action.

Additional Preventive Steps during Tauktae:

- 'Drishti Lifesaving' was on alert and its Lifeguards issued warnings against, and prevented the public from venturing into the sea.
- Preventive steps taken by the Captain of Ports Department: All boat owners and Barge owners were alerted.
- All revenue officers including Collectors, Dy Collectors, Mamlatdars and Talathis were on field within their jurisdictions on 15-18 May, 2021 for damage assessment and search and rescue.
- NDRF team of 30 personnel were deployed to clear National Highways blocked due to falling of huge trees at Canacona and Chinchinim.

Compensation paid: After assessment, the following compensation has been paid to the disaster victims by the District Disaster Management Authority..

Taluka	No. of Beneficiaries	Amount Sanctioned
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Tiswadi	166	9,43,963
Bardez	333	35,76,900
Bicholim	84	12,47,993
Pernem	111	5,14,389
Sattari	21	97,044
Ponda	84	13,34,500
Salcete	93	5,38,200
Mormugao	21	86,000
Dharbandora	07	42,000
Sanguem	21	1,21,000
Quepem	47	2,06,000
Canacona	95	4,15,000
Total	1,083	91,22,989

Other Initiatives Taken by State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

I want to inform, that this year, many projects are about to be completed to help Goa deal with disasters, especially cyclones, in a better manner. 11 cyclone shelters are in an advanced stage of completion and one has been already being inaugurated. These cyclone shelters will be handed over to the local community to run. Additionally, installation of 39 Early warning towers would be completed this year under National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Programme (NCRMP) Phase II funded by the World bank. There is a component of training under NCRMP, wherein training for different stakeholders has already started which will help the State Government to reach to the last person to make them aware of the action to be taken by them during Cyclone and floods.

This year SDMA approved purchase of Search and Rescue (SaR) equipment, including 01 No. of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Boat with OBM of 25 HP along with Trailer, 09 Nos. Petrol Driven Chain Saw 18" (3 HP), 35 nos. of Petrol Chain Saw Cutter for one for each Police Station in addition to 7 Coastal Police Stations (15 nos. for North Goa District and 20 nos. for South Goa District).

The State Government has decided to implement the Centrally Sponsored "Aapda Mitra Scheme" which aims at community involvement in disaster management and under the scheme 200 volunteers in each district will be trained in First Responder for various disasters.

I am aware that the relief as per SDRF norms of the Government of India is not sufficient. Therefore, the State government is providing support from the State budget to provide higher compensation under the State schemes, such as "Goa Disaster Management Fund Scheme" by Revenue Department, "Disaster Management Fund Scheme, 2020" by Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services and "Shetkari Adhar nidhi" by Agriculture Department.

I assure the members of this August house that the Government is sensitive about the safety of the Goan and will walk extra miles to ensure their wellbeing.

Keeping in view the elaborate arrangements in place and future plans as stated above, there should be no fear and anxiety in the mind of people of Goa about the flooding situation and other disasters.