

## **1.3 DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

At the global level, there has been considerable concern over natural disasters. Even as substantial scientific and material progress is made, the loss of lives and property due to disasters has not decreased. In fact, the human toll and economic losses have mounted. It was in this background that the United Nations General Assembly, in 1989, declared the decade 1990-2000 as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction with the objective to reduce loss of lives and property and restrict socio-economic damage through concerted international action, specially in developing countries.

Natural disasters are not bound by political boundaries and have no social or economic considerations. They are borderless as they affect both developing and developed countries. They are also merciless, and as such the vulnerable tend to suffer more at the impact of natural disasters. For example, the developing countries are much more seriously affected in terms of the loss of lives, hardship borne by population and the percentage of their GNP lost. Since 1991, two-third of the victims of natural disasters were from developing countries, while just 2 per cent were from highly developed nations. Those living in developing countries and especially those with limited resources tend to be more adversely affected. With the alarming rise in the natural disasters and vulnerability per se, the world community is strengthening its efforts to cope with it.

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been a recurrent phenomena. About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities; over 40 million hectares is prone to floods; about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought. In the decade 1990-2000, an average of about 4344 people lost their lives and about 30 million people were affected by disasters every year. The loss in terms of private, community and public assets has been astronomical.

The super cyclone in Orissa in October, 1999 and the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat in January, 2001 underscored the need to adopt a multi dimensional endeavour involving diverse scientific, engineering, financial and social processes; the need to adopt multi disciplinary and multi sectoral approach and incorporation of risk reduction in the developmental plans and strategies.

Disaster management occupies an important place in this country's policy framework as it is the poor and the under-privileged who are worst affected on account of calamities/disasters.

### **Impact of Tsunami**

An earthquake of magnitude 9.00 on the Richter scale struck seabed off the Sumatra Coast, Indonesia at 6.28 AM on 26.12.2004. The resultant seismic giant sea wave (Tsunami) battered the coast of South India. These giant sea waves ravaged the coastline of Tamil Nadu ferociously on 26.12.2004 at 8.30 A.M.

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The people living in villages and towns all along the coastline of 13 Districts viz. Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Villuppuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukkudi, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari were affected. The magnitude of damages in coastal districts of Nagapattinam, Kanniyakumari and Cuddalore was very severe and in the coastal areas in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts it was severe. Due to this sudden attack of tsunami, a large number of fishermen living in coastal areas have been most severely affected and thousands of them lost their lives and their means of livelihood. In this catastrophe, lakhs of people lost their houses and huts and were rendered homeless. This tsunami caused very heavy damages both to the belongings of fishermen viz., catamarans, vallams, mechanized boats, fishing nets and belongings and properties of the non-fishermen communities living along the coast of Tamil Nadu.

Immediately the entire State machinery has been pressed into service for search, rescue and relief operations. Instructions were given to the affected coastal District Collectors to take immediate action for search, rescue and relief operations with the active co-ordination with the departments of Revenue, Police, Fire and Rescue, Medical and Health Services, Coast guard and Army, Navy, Air Force. Despite the total shock and suddenness of the event with no forewarning, whatsoever, the entire administrative machinery in the affected coastal districts plunged into the immediate task of search and rescue operations with utmost commitment and dedication. This extraordinary effort taken up by the Tamil Nadu Government enabled to relocate all the affected families to safer places, and provide them immediately, food, shelter and medical aid in relief camps. Simultaneously, search and rescue operations were also undertaken on a war footing.

The Government took immediate action to get the details of loss of life, damage to houses, loss of cattle, persons injured, persons affected, no. of people evacuated to safer places, number of relief centers opened, no. of families accommodated in the relief centres and details about affected boats, fishing nets, damages etc. due to this major disaster from the Collectors and allotted funds to the Collectors for speedy implementation of the relief measures and the progress in relief work were also made.

Voluntary organisations, private organisations and the State Governments came forward to donate relief materials on a large scale for the tsunami affected people. Action was taken to receive those relief materials, store them and send them to the areas, which required them. Accordingly, to receive the relief materials from donors in Chennai city and from the other States, the TNCSC godown at Virugambakkam was used. In respect of receipt of relief materials from the donors in the districts were delivered to the respective District Collectors of the affected districts.

The fishermen community was the worst affected by the sudden tsunami. They were devastated not only by losing their homes, possessions, livelihood but also their lifeline viz., catamarans, mechanized boats, fishing nets (both trawl and gill nets) in the onslaught caused by tsunami.

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The people living in the affected areas viz., farmers, workers in salt pan, petty traders, craftsmen engaged in boats and net repairs and the people connected with coastal economy lost their houses, small business centres, cattle and possessions. In many places, seawater entered the agricultural lands causing damages to crops besides causing sea water seeping the soil pores. In some places, the marauding seawater dumped the sand and debris in the agricultural lands causing heavy sand cast in the agricultural lands. There was widespread damage to public buildings and community infrastructure such as public distribution system shops, hospitals, schools, etc.

Due to the havoc caused by tsunami in 13 coastal districts on 26.12.2004, 373 villages were affected. Further, there were 8036 human loss and 16519 cattle loss. 3136 persons suffered grievous injuries. There were damages to 1.5 lakh dwellings. 35,530 catamarans, 11,118 vallams, 4,430 mechanized boats and 2000.69 MTs of fishing implements.

#### Relief and Rehabilitation

Immediate relief measures were undertaken to the families of those who lost their members and also to those who were rendered homeless. On the very same day of the occurrence of the disaster, 304 relief centres were opened and 2,37,000 affected people were accommodated in the relief centres. The number of affected people increased day by day and the number of affected people reached 6.90 lakhs, out of whom 5 lakh people were brought to safer places. 3.09 lakh affected people were accommodated in 412 relief centres.

Medical Teams consisting of 547 doctors headed by Government Doctors were formed and deputed to the affected areas to attend to the injured persons, to prevent outbreak of epidemic diseases and to maintain public sanitation etc. in the affected areas and relief centres.

The Government have sanctioned funds for relief and rehabilitation measures for the damages caused due to Tsunami. The details of relief on the various items of assistance are given below:-

#### Fisheries Sector

Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned a sum of Rs. 65 crores from the Calamity Relief Fund as an immediate package of following assistance to the Fishermen.

- 1) Replacement of gill nets for Vallams at Rs.20,000 per unit for 10,000 units at a total cost of Rs.20 crores.
- 2) Replacement of gill nets for catamaran at Rs.10,000 per unit for 20,000 units at a total cost of Rs.20 crores
- 3) Repair / rebuilding of Vallams at Rs.15,000 per unit for 10,000 boats at a total cost of Rs.15 crores
- 4) Repair / rebuilding of catamarans at Rs.5000 per unit (since increased to Rs.10,000) for 20,000 catamarans at a total cost of Rs.10 crores (Rs.20 crores now).

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The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 78 lakhs for repairing 1560 Out Board Motors / In Board Engines which have been damaged during Tsunami at the rate of Rs. 5,000 per engine.

The Government have also sanctioned Rs. 395.56 crores for the following assistance:

- Replacement of fully damaged / lost wooden catamarans with a wooden catamaran inclusive of net, at a full subsidy of Rs.32000 per catamaran (or) Replacement of fully damaged / lost Wooden catamaran with FRP catamaran – 35% subsidy of the total cost subject to the maximum of Rs. 52,500/- at an unit cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs (inclusive of engine and net)
- Replacement of fully damaged / lost FRP catamaran, the subsidy is 50% of the total cost subject to a maximum subsidy of Rs. 75000/- calculated at an unit cost of Rs. 1.5 lakhs inclusive of engine and net.
- Replacement of fully damaged / FRP Vallam – 50% of the total cost as subsidy subject to a maximum subsidy of Rs. 75000/- calculated at an unit cost of Rs.1.5 lakhs ( inclusive of engine and net)
- Repairs to mechanised boats – the subsidy is 60% of the assessed value of the damages restricted to a maximum subsidy of Rs.3 lakhs per boat.
- Replacement of fully damaged / lost mechanised boats – 35% subsidy of the total cost restricted to a maximum subsidy of Rs.5 lakhs per boat.

Besides, the following have been ordered:-

- A sum of Rs.10 lakhs towards subsidy of Rs.25,000/- each for prawn / crab farm owners, fish seeding farm owners, fish transport owners, ice manufacturing units, etc. who have lost their assets due to Tsunami in Cuddalore District.
- A sum of Rs. 6.64 crores as assistance for resumption of fishing activities, dredging operations and repair of fishing harbours and fishing launching centres.
- A sum of Rs. 430.50 lakhs as assistance for the damage to the fishing harbour and fish launching centre, repairs, dredging operations and related activities for resumption of fishing activities, restoration of damages to Chennai I and II fishing harbours.
- A sum of Rs. 2.70 lakhs for provision of new printers and Rs. 3.46 lakhs to meet out unforeseen expenditure by the Fisheries Department.
- A sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to meet the unforeseen expenditure such as preparation of the assessment report and amenities to the staff of Director of Fisheries engaged in relief work.

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- Renovation of jetty at Mallipatnam in Thanjavur District at a cost of Rs.55 lakhs.
- A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for repairing Chinnamuttom boat yard and Rs.1.89 lakhs for repairing Kanniyakumari boat yard to speed up the process of repairs of boats.

The Government have ordered for exemption of payment of sales tax on the purchase of catamarans, new FRP catamaran, new FRP / wooden vallam, goods including timber intended for repairing damaged mechanized boats including fiberglass boat fitted with OBM.

### Housing

The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 40 crores for building temporary accommodation at the rate of Rs. 8000/- per family for 50,000 families. Another 50,000 temporary shelters are to be provided by NGOs. The Government also issued orders for private - public participation for construction of permanent shelters and community assets such as schools, PHCs, community shelters, etc. Many NGOs have come forward to participate in these programs. Guidelines for evaluating NGOs, a Model MOU to be entered into between the Collector and the NGO / Corporate and technical details for construction of disaster proof houses have been finalized and sent to all coastal Collectors.

Government have announced a massive housing programme to build 1,30,000 houses in all the affected areas at an unit cost of Rs.1.5 lakh each. Infrastructure facilities like roads, water supply, sanitation, Rain Water Harvesting structures, etc., will also be provided. Repair cost up to Rs.75,000/- will be given based on the value of assessed damages. NGO's/Corporates will be actively involved.

### Other Rehabilitation Measures

The Government of Tamil Nadu have sanctioned

- An ex-gratia payment of Rs.1 lakh per dead person from Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. The above ex-gratia payment has been given to the families of 6571 dead persons out of 8036 who died due to Tsunami.
- A sum of Rs.3.50 crore as ex-gratia amount at the rate of Rs.25,000/- for person who lost their limbs or eyes and at the rate of Rs.5,000/- for those who sustained grievous injury. So far, 2390 persons have been assisted to the tune of Rs.122.10 lakhs.
- Relief package to 1,50,000 families who have lost their huts, at the rate of Rs.4912/- per family. The total amount allotted for this purpose was Rs.73.68 crores. So far 1,18,586 families have been benefited by this scheme at a cost of Rs.57.81 crore.

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- A sum of Rs.45 crores as relief assistance to the 1,50,000 families including the families of fishermen and those involved in small business and petty trades connected with the coastal economy at the rate of Rs.2912/- per family. The amount has been actually disbursed to 1,76,480 affected families at a cost of Rs.51.39 crore. The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs.7.43 crore to extend financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 2912/- per family for 24764 additional families closely connected with the coastal economy who lost their wages and employment. The Government have further extended the relief package by sanctioning Rs. 1,45,600/- to 50 families who have returned from Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Nagapattinam District and Rs.65,25,792/- to 2241 left out families in Ramanathpuram District.
- A sum of Rs.5 crores as relief package for petty traders / shop owners at the rate of Rs.2,000/- for damages to mobile / temporary shop owners and Rs.5,000/- for damages to pucca shop owners.
- A sum of Rs.122 crores as sustenance allowance of Rs.1000/- and 30 kgs of rice, provisions, kerosene etc., valued at Rs.526/- per month for each family for 3 months from February to April 2005 to the Tsunami affected 3 lakh families.
- Free text books, note books and uniforms have been disbursed to the students of 1st std to 12th std who are studying in Government / Govt. aided schools located in Tsunami affected areas. 1,05,264 students were benefited.
- A sum of Rs. 1.56 crore for the expenditure incurred towards the disbursement of text books and note books to the tsunami affected students by the Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation.
- The tuition fees and special fees payable by the students of Tsunami affected families for the period from 01.01.2005 to the end of the academic year 2005-06 will be borne by the State Government. In addition, the students will be exempted from payment of examination fees from March 2005 to the end of academic year 2005-2006.
- The conduct of separate public examination for the students studying in 121 number of Tsunami affected schools.
- A sum of Rs.5.25 crore for unforeseen expenditure including debris removal, arrangements for burial of the dead, etc.
- A sum of Rs.9 crore towards a relief package of assistance to 1.5 lakh affected families who lost their houses by way of providing trunk boxes, stoves and stainless steel kudams. So far, 93555 trunk boxes, 65030 stoves and 75152 stainless steel kudams have been distributed at a cost of Rs. 5.70 crore.
- An ex-gratia of Rs.2500/- each totaling Rs.1.20 crore for 4799 sanitary workers to recognise their efforts.
- A sum of Rs.1 crore to the Collector, Nagapattinam and a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Collector, Chennai as an advance to meet the expenditure relating to transportation of relief materials, to move the affected families to their areas of resettlement etc.,

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- A sum of Rs.1,80,13,930/- as relief to the crops damaged over an area of 5598.89 hectares. This relief will benefit 13158 farmers affected due to Tsunami.
- A sum of Rs.1696.16 lakhs for reclamation of sand cast and saline agricultural lands at the rate of Rs.12,500/- per ha. covering an extent of 13569.29 ha. affected by Tsunami.
- A sum of Rs. 83,72,750/- to take up the relief works in 669.82 hectares of Tsunami affected Horticultural land at the rate of Rs. 12,500/- per hectare.
- A sum of Rs.2,80,11,150/- as relief to the loss of livestock such as cattle & buffalo, calf and draught animals, sheep and goat, poultry, etc. So far, a sum of Rs.1.77 crore has been disbursed for this purpose.
- A sum of Rs.1.40 crore for construction of temporary bridge connecting Melamanakkudy and Keelamanakkudy villages in Kanniyakumari District.
- Provision of Rs.1 lakh to Nagapattinam District for improving the water supply and sanitation in temporary shelter areas and for meeting electricity charges.
- Construction of Rubble Mound Sea Wall for 1 km at Kanniyakumari District at a cost of Rs.2 crore.
- A sum of Rs. 1 crore as relief for loss of shore seines in Kanniyakumari District.

### Measures to Resettle Destitutes, Orphans and Widows

Three orphanages have been opened for children rendered orphans in the districts of Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Nagercoil (Kanniyakumari) with facilities to maintain one hundred children at each centre. Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 47.76 lakhs for this purpose. So far, 73 children in Cuddalore, 109 children in Nagapattinam and 29 children in Kanniyakumari have been admitted.

Orphaned adolescent girls are being admitted into service homes run by the State Government. Two new service homes have been opened in Kanniyakumari and Nagapattinam districts - 23 girls in Nagapattinam and 7 girls in Kanniyakumari district have been admitted. Government sanctioned Rs. 41.74 lakhs for this purpose. State Government is investing a sum of Rs.5 lakhs as fixed deposit in the name of each orphaned child and orphaned adolescent girl rendered homeless. This amount will be available to them when they attain the age of 18 for further studies / self employment, etc. Unmarried orphaned girls over 18 years of age are being admitted in service homes and given technical training to acquire vocational skills. So far 7 girls in Kanniyakumari district and one girl in Nagapattinam district have been admitted. A sum of Rs.3 lakhs will be invested as a fixed deposit in each of their names. Ongoing pension schemes have been extended to cover all those rendered destitute by the calamity. Old Age Pension has been sanctioned to 103 persons, Physically handicapped pension to 36, Destitute widow pension to 250, Destitute Agricultural Labourer pension to 11 and Destitute wives Pension to 7, totaling 407 persons.

### **Repair and Restoration of Roads & Bridges, Power Supply, Water Supply and Health Infrastructure**

All the major roads and bridges were restored to allow for traffic by 31.12.2004. The Highways Department has estimated the cost of restoration of roads and construction / reconstruction of bridges at Rs. 770 crores. Power and Water supply was restored in all affected areas within 48 hours of tsunami and repair works to the tune of Rs. 16.93 crores taken up by TNEB.

#### **Memorandum**

A Memorandum to Government of India was submitted on 4.1.2005 seeking an assistance of Rs. 4800 crores and allotment of 54000 tonnes of food grains to the affected families. In supplementary to the above Memorandum additional sanction for an amount of Rs.5.8225 crores was requested from GOI on 15.1.2005.

Based on the Memorandum and the report submitted by the Central Team the Government of India allotted a sum of Rs. 617.20 crores towards Relief and Response, Rs. 9.94 crores as Fishing Harbour Grant from Calamity Relief Fund / National Calamity Contingency Fund and 54,000 MTs of rice to the value of Rs. 54 crores under SGRY.

#### **Disaster Management Policy**

The Government formulated the Tamil Nadu *Disaster Management Policy* for the management of disaster in the State.

The aim of Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Policy is to reduce the negative impact of all kinds of disasters through a vibrant disaster management machinery so that loss of lives, property & critical infrastructure is minimized and economic and development gains made by the State are not lost due to such calamities/ disasters.

##### *Objectives of the Policy*

- To replace the existing approach of re-active relief by a proactive approach.
- To develop a new culture of prevention, preparedness and quick response for management of disasters
- To reduce the vulnerability of the community through proper risk assessment
- To put institutions and structures in place for efficient and effective management of disasters.
- To establish a clear chain of command with well defined authority and responsibility of various stakeholders.
- To identify and utilize the available resources efficiently.
- To ensure transparent, consistent and equitable relief to the victims.
- To make disaster management planning an integral part of development planning
- To design appropriate disaster prevention and mitigation strategies for different disasters.
- To enhance the capacities of various players including the community in disaster management and mitigation.



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- To create database about the policies, resources and strategies of disaster management.
- To create awareness among all sections of society especially students to develop expertise in the disaster management discipline

The Key Components of Tamil Nadu Disaster Management Programme are (i) to establish a Disaster Management Authority (DMA), a Nodal agency to guide, facilitate, coordinate and monitor various aspects of disaster management, (ii) to take steps for convergence of disaster management and development planning, (iii) to take steps to formulate comprehensive disaster management plans at all levels after taking into account the local conditions, (iv) to focus on the reduction of vulnerability of communities instead of mere disaster relief, (v) to provide necessary legislative support for recognizing the role of present and future stakeholders, (vi) to recognize the need for an integral approach based on multi-disciplinary process in dealing with the disaster, (vii) to foster a culture of prevention, among the community and various organs of Government through training and awareness campaigns, (viii) to involve the community at all stages in the disaster management activities, (ix) to give due importance to NGOs community based organizations and other voluntary/philanthropic institutions, (x) not allowing discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, community or sex while distributing the assistance/relief, (xi) to ensure transparency in decision-making and information sharing, (xii) to create a trained and committed volunteer force on the line of Home Guards for disaster Management.

#### *Strategy for Implementation*

Disaster management activities could be divided into three phases.

- 1.Pre disaster phase.(Phase-1)
- 2.Impact phase.(Phase-II)
- 3.Post disaster phase.(Phase-III)

***Pre-disaster phase*** activities related to prevention, mitigation and preparedness to face the disasters. Prevention activities would include all the steps that can be taken to prevent certain disasters like fire, landslides, chemical/ nuclear related accidents, outbreak of epidemics etc. Mitigation activities aim to reduce or eliminate hazards associated with disasters or lessening the impact of such disasters. Preparedness means those measures which are undertaken in advance to ensure that individuals and agencies will be geared up to react quickly in the event of disaster. Preventive, mitigation and preparedness activities could be taken any time and they should be ongoing and regular functions of all players of Disaster Management.

Each disaster requires a different response and accordingly the Government proposed to prepare separate plan for each of the following disasters viz., Cyclone, Flood, Earthquake, Tsunami, Drought, Fire, Land slides, Industrial & Chemical disasters, Accidents and Epidemic.

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All the District Collectors would prepare detailed action plans at local body level and at district level as per the local needs. The public and private sectors, voluntary agencies and community would be actively involved in the formulation of such plans. State Disaster Management Authority/State Relief Commissioner would prepare such plans at State level. During this phase, the following activities would be taken up.

- Formulation of appropriate policies and Guidelines for various stakeholders of Disaster Management.
- Incorporation of Disaster Management measures in the development planning.
- Risk assessment and mapping of disaster vulnerability.
- Formulation of Disaster Management plans at all levels as per local needs.
- Creation/sharing of database relating to Disaster vulnerability resources, trained manpower etc.
- Establishment of a clear chain of command along with robust communication network.
- Setting up surveillance and early warning system for hazards.
- Enhancing capabilities and expertise of the concerned departments/agencies dealing with disasters.
- Capacity building of individuals and community based organizations, through proper training and awareness programmes and organizing a committed cadre for disaster management.
- Conducting sensitization meetings and mock drills of stakeholders.
- Identifying various sources of funds.

***Impact phase*** is the phase when the disaster has actually struck. During this phase the following activities would be taken up:

- Warning and evacuation of the people
- Immediate search and rescue operations.
- Providing essential medical care, adequate health and sanitation to control outbreak of epidemics.
- Provision of safe drinking water, food and shelter to the victims.
- Restoration of basic infrastructure and essential services.
- Providing security to victims and other citizens and protecting the public property.
- Providing proper information and collecting feedback through proper media management.
- Involving community volunteer force and community based organizations for better appreciation and effective delivery of rescue and relief operations.
- Assessing preliminary damages quickly.
- Mobilising funds for relief, rehabilitation and restoration activities.
- Finalising relief packages as per the guidelines/ Government instructions

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Third phase, i.e. ***Post disaster phase*** relates to the measures taken to restore normalcy. It begins soon after the reduction in critical response activities permits the re-allocation of resources to longer term recovery activities. It may extend over years depending upon the nature and magnitude of the disaster. Typically the activities include reconstruction, financial assistance programmes, and counseling and economic impact studies. During this phase following activities would be taken up.

- Carrying out detailed damage assessment
- Providing assistance to restore/re-construct houses.
- Relocation of affected people to other places if required.
- Finalising detailed reconstruction/rehabilitation plans.
- Disbursement of funds and audit of accounts.
- Monitoring the execution of various projects.
- Redressal of disputes/grievances.
- Documentation of the lesson learnt
- Modification/ updation of disaster plans.
- Updation of resources inventory.

To ensure coordinated steps towards mitigation, preparedness and coordinated response to the disaster a Disaster Management Authority has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government.

Further orders have been issued by the Government to establish a Disaster Management Agency at the State Level under the control of the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration and State Relief Commissioner.

### **Disaster Risk Management Programme sponsored by Government of India and UNDP**

With a view to reducing the vulnerability of the communities to natural disasters in identified multi-hazard prone areas, the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] have signed an agreement in August 2002, for implementation of a programme called Disaster Risk Management Programme. The goal of the programme is sustainable reduction in natural disaster risk in the most hazard prone districts in select States of India. The thematic focus will be on awareness generation and education, training and capacity development for mitigation and better preparedness in terms of disaster risk management and recovery at community, district and state levels, and strengthening of state and district disaster management information centers for accurate and timely dissemination of warning.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is the executing agency for the programme. A Project Management Board has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Secretary to provide overall guidance for the implementation of the programme.

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In the State of Tamil Nadu, Disaster Risk Management Programme is being implemented in the Districts of Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanniyakumari and The Nilgiris and its subcomponent UEVRP is being implemented in the seismic zone III cities of Chennai and Coimbatore. The entire programme is funded by UNDP and the total Programme outlay is Rs.6.71 crores for the period from 2003-2006. The resources presently allocated for the State during the year 2003-2006 are Rs.3.21 crores.

A Memorandum of Understanding between United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Tamil Nadu was signed in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2003.

In order to take up the construction of Emergency Operation Centre at State and District level on a priority basis the resource allocation has been increased from Rs.3.21 crores to Rs.4.41 crores [United States Dollars 713,200 to 981,086] and the project duration is from August 2003 to December 2007. The Memorandum of Understanding has been amended and signed on 11-10-2004.

A State Steering Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government for implementing the project in Tamil Nadu. For the implementation of the project, the Special Commissioner and Commissioner of Revenue Administration has been appointed as the Nodal Officer and the Joint Commissioner (Relief) as the State Project Officer.

In addition, eleven line departments has appointed one of its senior level officer as Nodal Officer to coordinate with the State Nodal Officer / State Project Officer in implementing the Programme.