

NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Government of India

Press Release

NDMA Mock Drill at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) : 12th & 13th July 2011

National Disaster Management Authority has decided to conduct Mock Drill in all the 18 nuclear facilities in the six different States of the country to review the off-site emergency plans. This follows the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister who desired that a lot of attention should be given for the preparedness measures to deal with nuclear emergency besides ensuring safety and security of the Nuclear Power Plants.

2. In the wake of the recent disasters in Japan, Hon'ble Prime Minister reviewed the country's preparedness to deal with disasters in a special meeting of NDMA on 01 June 2011. There was a special focus on Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear & Radiological emergencies. The first mock drill was conducted at Tarapur (Maharashtra) on 10th & 11th June 2011. The second mock drill will be conducted at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu) on 12th & 13th July 2011.

3. India has an enviable and impeccable record of safety & security and virtually fail-safe arrangement in its all Nuclear Establishments. The handling of Nuclear Emergencies require a high degree of coordination among different service group and the stakeholders who are responsible for management of such emergencies. In the event of

potential radiological consequences in the Public domain, the authorities at the level of District, State and Centre are to play a vital role in its mitigation mechanism and therefore, there is a need to review off-site emergency plan.

4. The Mock Drill on 13 July 2011 will be preceded by a day-long workshop on 12th July 2011. The Workshop will be inaugurated by Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA. Shri B. Bhattacharjee, Member, NDMA who is also incharge of nuclear and radiological disasters and former Director, BARC and Shri J.K. Sinha, Member, NDMA who is incharge of Incident Response System, NDRF and Mock Drills will also address. The Officers from Nuclear Crisis Management, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Madras Atomic Power Station and Govt.of Tamilnadu will attend the workshop. The Distt Magistrate, the Supdt of Police, Kancheepuram, Station Director, Madras Atomic Power Station and other stake holders will give presentations on their preparedness to counter such nuclear emergencies.

5. Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA and Members will also attend the Mock Drill on 13th July where all the stakeholders of district, State and National level will participate alongwith NGOs and other Community Members. A Team of NDRF Bn Arakkonam will take part in response exercise alongwith Police, Civil Defence, Home Guard and other responders who will show their capability and readiness to counter Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies.

6. The gaps identified in coordination and response preparedness will be addressed by all concerned subsequently.
