

# **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

Government of India

NDMA Bhawan

A-1 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi – 110029

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **“Mobile Radiation Detection Systems (MRDS) in our cities should be a Top Priority” : M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA**

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA said “while there is very strict compliance with prescribed safety standards at all Nuclear installations, the main concern today should be the use of large number of Radiological material, in the fields of Medicine, Agriculture, Industry, Research and even in many appliances commonly used, besides their possible use by anti-national elements”.

He said that Radiation cannot be seen, heard or smelt which makes it difficult for the regular law enforcement agency to detect it. Empowering them with Mobile Radiology Detection System (MRDS) therefore is extremely important.

“This MRDS can create confidence in the minds of the people and also act as a deterrent to anyone who thinks of using radioactive material in acts of terrorism and disruption”, he said. “Mobile Radiation Detection Systems (MRDS) in our cities should be a Top Priority”.

Shri Reddy was inaugurating a meeting specially convened to discuss the proposal of NDMA to set up Mobile Radiology Detection System (MRDS) as a part of the preparedness to handle Radiological Emergencies. The Union Home Ministry recently accorded in-principle sanction of this proposal with an investment Rs.7.5 crores. NDMA is at present finalizing steps for its implementation.

Shri Reddy recalled that out of 150 deaths due to Radiological and Nuclear accidents worldwide, only 33 of them are because of Nuclear accidents at Chernobyl (31) and

Tokoimara, Japan (2), while the rest were because of Radiological accidents. One of



**Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy Hon'ble Vice Chairman NDMA addressing the delegate at the Mobile Radiation Detection System.**

these deaths was reported in India last year in Mayapuri incident, where orphan source of cobalt found its way into the scrap market. "Radiological Emergencies should, therefore, be taken serious note off".

A committee was appointed by the Government of India after the Mayapuri incident headed by Dr. B. Bhattacharjee, Member, NDMA. These recommendations were discussed and approved by CoS for their implementation by the agencies concerned. One of the important recommendations was the need to be set up around 1000 MRDS in metro and major cities.

Shri Reddy called upon the States to actively participate and cooperate in this national effort that can empower the State Police to deal with Radiological Emergencies besides detection.

State Governments were asked to take the following steps:-

- (i) Identify the Police Stations etc. which are to be equipped with the MRDS
- (ii) Identify the staff which will handle these equipments and are proposed to be trained. Ten persons per police station are required to be trained.
- (iii) Identify the place for centralized facility for calibration of these equipments in each of the identified city.

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA presiding over the meeting highlighted the various initiatives taken by NDMA. Former Member, NDMA Dr. B Bhattacharjee, Members, Shri J.K. Sinha and Shri J.K. Bansal, Shri Rajiv, DG, NDRF, Shri P K Tripathi, JS, NDMA, Shri Suresh Kumar, JS, MHA and other officials of NDMA were also present in the meeting. The meeting was attended by senior police officers and representatives of State Governments and UTs, Ministry of Shipping and experts from BARC, which is the nodal agency for handling Nuclear Emergency in the country.

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