

**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Government of India**  
**NDMA Bhawan, A-1 Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**MLA HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PUBLIC AWARENESS**  
**GENERATION**

In his Presidential Address, Shri M.Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA called upon the MLAs from Delhi to play a crucial role in raising public awareness by taking the message of disaster management to the people. Shri Reddy drew the attention of Delhi MLAs to the fact that Delhi falls in the Seismic Zone IV and therefore awareness about earthquake is extremely important.

2. Shri Reddy recalled that during the special meeting of the NDMA convened in the wake of the disasters in Japan, the Prime Minister directed the NDMA to aim for world class preparedness as a follow up to this, NDMA has held several consultations with the Government of Delhi and finalised the earthquake preparedness campaign which will go on till the middle of February, 2012. Shri Reddy welcomed the idea of Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit to make Delhi well prepared in the next 4-5 years and Shri Reddy offered all help and assistance to the Government of Delhi to achieve this laudable objective.. Shri Reddy offered to take up with Ministry of Home Affairs the issue of better coordination between the District Administration and Delhi Police to deal with disasters.

3. “Delhi is a large city and being national capital, has its own significance. East Delhi is most thickly populated part of the world with population density of over 37,000 persons per sq.km. and places like Chandni Chowk would have much higher density”.

4. “People should be made aware of the danger of constructing unsafe buildings. There are Building Codes, Bye Laws and Rules” But unless we educate people about the importance all of these it will be of no use”.

5. We need to look at the buildings which collapsed even without the earthquake like what happened in the areas of Laxmi Nagar, Jama Masjid and Uttam Nagar. NDMA has offered to train Municipal officials from all the 12 zones of Delhi in rapid visual assessment to identify such weak buildings.

6. Shri Reddy recalled that after the September 18<sup>th</sup> earthquake in Sikkim people lost lives in Jalpaiguri and Silliguri in West Bengal which are 150 KMs away from the Epicentre at Mangan. People also died in different places of Bihar including Patna which is about 600 KMs away from Mangan. We need to take all such tactics into the account and in evolving strategies”.

7. Delhi is also a very vulnerable to flooding and Sh. Reddy said “ for the first time in the country NDMA has brought out the comprehensive document covering all aspects of Urban Flooding Disaster Management and release the guidelines last year. “To deal with floods we need to know how much it raining and where its raining and stress on the importance of having adequate number of rain fall gauges and real time monitoring. This City which is spread over 1400 KMs would require about 370 rain fall gauges while the proposal now is only to have around 50”. He called upon the Municipal Authorities to take steps to establish this net work combined with the Doppler Weather Radar recently installed at the Palam Airport, a combination of these would be very useful in managing floods.

8. It was the first time that sensitization workshop for MLAs of Delhi was organized at Vidhan Sabha. Smt.Shiela Dikshit, the Chief Guest inaugurated the workshop. Shri Yoganand Shastri, Hon’ble Speaker, Dr.A.K.Walia, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, Shri P.K.Tripathi, Chief Secretary, and Shri Vijay Dev, Secretary, Revenue also addressed the gathering.