

NATIONAL DISASTER MANGEMENT AUTHORITY
Government of India

Press Release on the meeting of Shri Manish Gupta, Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Development, Government of West Bengal with Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA on June 21, 2011.

Shri Manish Gupta, Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Development, Government of West Bengal, visited National Disaster Management Authority on 21 June 2011. Shri Manish Gupta discussed with Shri M Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority, various issues related to challenges and initiatives for disaster management in West Bengal. Shri Reddy assured full support of the NDMA to the State Government for better disaster preparedness and in the mainstreaming of disaster in the development process.

Shri Reddy also informed that National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is constructing 50 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in three cyclone prone coastal districts of West Bengal, namely, South 24 Parganas, 24 North Parganas and East Mednipur districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 138.65 Crore funded from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy recalled that a meeting was earlier convened by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12.6.2009 to discuss the situation arising out of Cyclone "Aila" in West Bengal. In accordance with the decision taken in the meeting, the NDMA team led by him as the then Member, NDMA visited West Bengal from 24 – 26 June 2009 to review the arrangements made for post-cyclone Relief and Restoration Works.

Shri Reddy had visited both South and North 24 Parganas districts during his visit to West Bengal in July 2009 and submitted a detailed report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister. One of the major gaps identified was the total lack of Cyclone Shelters in West Bengal. Based on this report and also the demand made by Kum. Mamata Banerjee, the then Union Railway Minister, Hon'ble Prime Minister

sanctioned an amount of Rs 138.65 crores for construction of 50 cyclone shelters. Shri Reddy also informed that, in addition, the construction of 150 shelters would be considered under the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP).



Accordingly, NDMA has signed MOUs with M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, who have been assigned construction of 35 cyclone shelters; 20 in North 24 Parganas and 15 in Purba Medinipur and with M/s. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata, who are constructing 15 cyclone shelters in South 24 Parganas. Shri Reddy also informed that construction work will be completed within 18 months, after which the buildings will be handed over to the West Bengal Government. Being Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters, these will be used for other purposes during normal times.

During the meeting, the Vice Chairman, NDMA also informed the visiting Minister that the appraisal documents of Government of West Bengal for the NCRMP Project viz. Investment Proposal for construction of 150 cyclone shelters including the approach roads at a total cost of Rs. 617.98 crore, are being forwarded to the World Bank with a request for early appraisal so that West Bengal joins the Project at the earliest possible.