

NATIONAL DISASTER MANGEMENT AUTHORITY

Government of India

Project for Construction of 50 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in West Bengal under Prime Minister's National Relief Fund Launched

Press Release – January 28, 2011

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. This was indicated during the meeting of **Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman NDMA** with **Shri Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal** at Kolkata today.

Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy recalled that a meeting was called 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 besides meeting the state Finance Minister Dr Aseem Dasgupta 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

Union Railway Minister Kum. Mamta Banerjee, Hon`ble Prime Minister sanctioned an amount of Rs 100 crores.

Shri Reddy visited Kolkata again in October 2009 and had a meeting with the State Finance Minister and attended by some other ministers, Chairpersons of the concerned Zilla Parishads and officials from the State Government and the district administration. The State Government was requested to identify sites for locating the Cyclone Shelters.

NDMA identified two PSUs with experience in the state to undertake the construction. Keeping in view the location of various sites and the local soil conditions, an amount of Rs 138.65 Crores was approved for the construction of 50 Cyclone Shelters. The construction of 150 shelters would be considered under the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP).

M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi has been assigned construction of 35 cyclone shelters; 20 in North 24 Parganas and 15 in Purba Medinipur and M/s. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, Kolkata will construct 15 cyclone shelters in South 24 Parganas. NDMA has signed an MoU with them in November 2010.

Shri Reddy also informed that construction work will be completed within 18 months i.e. by May, 2012, 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 Hon`ble Chief Minister that Agreements for the National Cyclone Risk

Mitigation Project were signed by officials of the World Bank and the Government of India and two States, namely, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, where it is being implemented in the 1st Phase.

Shri Reddy requested Shri Bhattacharjee that the submission of Investment Proposals by West Bengal has to be expedited so that they could at least be included in the 2nd phase of the Project, along with the proposals from three other states – all of whom missed the much extended deadlines in the past. He reiterated that NDMA was very keen to see that West Bengal joins the Project as it is highly vulnerable to Cyclones.

Shri Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee welcomed the gesture of the Prime Minister for sanctioning the construction of 50 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in West Bengal at a cost of Rs 138.65 Crores from **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund**. He also assured the Vice Chairman, NDMA of full support of the State Government in ensuring early completion of the construction of these shelters. The Chief Minister also directed the State Government officials to ensure expeditious submission of Investment Proposals under NCRMP.

Shri Reddy arrived in Kolkata yesterday morning and visited some sites identified for the construction of shelters in the Basanti area of South 24 Parganas district. He is accompanied by Shri Pradeep Kumar Tripathi, IAS, Joint Secretary, NDMA.

Shri Reddy earlier in the day called on the State Governor Shri M.K. Narayanan and apprised him about NDMA's initiatives in West Bengal.