

L. K. ADVANI
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Dear

29 JUL 2003

As you are aware, Government of India has been giving attention to assessing and improving capabilities within the country for responding to emergencies/disasters and to change the approach from a reactive to a more proactive approach. We have initiated a number of measures to address issues of mitigation/preparedness. The Ministry has already circulated a list of initiatives taken or in the process of being taken. My purpose of writing this letter is to request that your State Government may also initiate similar steps.

2.1 In particular, I recommend change of focus and responsibilities of your Department of Relief and Rehabilitation into one of prevention and mitigation. It may also be renamed as Department of Disaster Management.

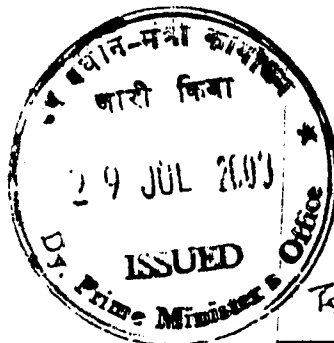
2.2 A State Disaster Management Authority may be set up with powers to take decisions/give directions regarding mitigation and preparedness measures across the whole range of Government functions. Drawing up of Disaster Management Plans at the State, District and Block levels, changing/converting the State Relief Code/Manual into Disaster Management Manual incorporating prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures, enunciating a Disaster Management Policy and enacting a Disaster Management Act are some of the other steps which are recommended for your consideration.

3. I intend to discuss measures that are required to be taken for disaster management either in the annual conference of Chief Ministers or in a separate conference. I am sure that your State under your able leadership will actively involve itself in implementing various steps suggested above.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

L. K. Advani
(L.K.ADVANI)



To All Chief Ministers

Block, New Delhi - 110001 India (17 States in English, others in Hindi)