

Proceeding of the 20th Meeting of State Executive Committee (SEC) constituted under Disaster Management Act 2005, held on 24 -25 August 2023 at HP Secretariat Shimla, under the Chairmanship of Shri Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.

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List of Participants is at Annexure-A

At the outset, Principal Secretary (Revenue) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Onkar Sharma, warmly welcomed the Chief Secretary cum Chairman SEC, members of the State SEC, and the special invitees for the 20th SEC meeting. The Pr. Secretary then gave a briefing to the Chair regarding the previous SEC meeting and emphasized significance of decisions taken in SEC in relation to disaster management aimed at making the state more resilient to disasters. The meeting was focused on assessing the progress made so far in disaster management initiatives, foster collaboration, review progress, and chart a way forward to ensure that Himachal Pradesh is better equipped to handle and recover from disasters.

2. Thereafter, the Director-cum-ex Officio Special Secretary (Rev-DM) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shri DC Rana, provided an overview of the Role and Responsibility of the SEC as per the provisions of Section 22 and 24 of the DM Act 2005 and through power point presentation shared hazard and vulnerability profile of Himachal Pradesh, specifically with focus on landslides, earthquake and GLOFs. Additionally, he discussed in detail the SDRF/NDRF fund for disaster management released by the Government of India, along with the current guidelines for utilizing these funds for various aspects of disaster management.

3. After due deliberations on the role and responsibilities of SEC and the hazard and vulnerability profile of the State, the following agenda points were taken up for discussion and directions:-

Agenda Item No. 20.1: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Meeting of SEC Meetings held on 17.9. 2022 and 23.3.2023

4. The last meetings of the SEC held on 17.9.2022 and 23.3.2023 were brought to the notice of the SEC. The SEC was informed that the minutes of the meetings were circulated to all concerned. No objections/comments have been received from any quarter. SEC was requested to confirm the same.

Decision

The minutes of 18th & 19th Meeting of the SEC were noted and confirmed.

20th Meeting of the State Executive Committee

Agenda Item No. 20.2: Action Taken Report on Previous Meetings of the SEC

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in 18th Meeting of SEC n held on 17-09-2022 incorporating the decisions of previous meetings of the SEC is as under:-

Agenda Item No.	Agenda Description & Discussions and Last Decision of SEC	Action Taken	Decisions taken in 20 th SEC Meeting
4.5	FORMATION OF SEC SUB-COMMITTEE ON TECHNO LEGAL REGIME i. The Secretary (UD & TCP) apprised the SEC that a committee under the Chairmanship of Director (UD) has been constituted and the feedback on draft Model Building Bye Laws will be submitted to the Committee by 18th August 2020. ii. SEC was informed that RD & PR department is involved in the Masons trainings being conducted by the DM Cell through the Master Trainers of technical education trained from the CBRI Roorkee. These trainings are being coordinated by the DDMA's. iii. Compliance reports on other points be also obtained and shared with SEC.	As of now, the status of the compliance report for the adoption of building bye-laws is still awaited. Additionally, in the 15th SEC Meeting, it was decided that the Administrative Secretaries of Urban Development (UD) and Town and Country Planning (TCP) will be invited to the next meeting. However, in the subsequent SEC meeting, these Administrative Secretaries were not invited.	The Building Bye-laws as approved by the SEC be implemented immediately by TCP and UD and compliance reported within 2 months. Further, these Building Bye laws be re-examined in view of current requirements, and need be amended and implemented in due course of time. TCP Department to ensure safe construction practices in rural areas – commercial activities to be brought under the ambit of TCP. RD to promote safe construction practices in rural areas as already directed. DDMA's to ensure safe construction practices in their respective jurisdiction and take steps to deal with vulnerable structures as per law.
9.18	White paper on Earthquake Risk Reduction. Decision It was decided to take items in next	DM-Cell has circulated draft white paper on Earthquake Risk Mitigation to the entire	A comprehensive compliance report regarding the status of the implementation of the recommendations stated in

	meeting. In the meantime, draft white paper be shared with all concerned for comments.	Stakeholder department for their inputs and comments and the final Draft were approved in the 14 th Meeting vide agenda item No. 9.18. However, the stated provisions are not implemented on the ground.	the white paper be demanded from the Stakeholder departments. This report should outline the progress made, any challenges encountered, and the planned course of action moving forward and the same shall be placed in the next SEC meeting.
9.20	<u>INSTALLATION OF EARLY WARNING AND ALERT SYSTEM BY THE DAM AUTHORITIES IN THE STATE</u> <u>Decision</u> The SEC directed MPP & Power to submit an action taken report to the SDMA giving project wise action taken.	The Directorate of Energy has filed compliance report for the 23 major dam authorities on sudden release of water from reservoirs. However, it is important to note that there are major gaps in the implementation of these guidelines. In addition to this, the Dam Safety Act 2021 has also come into force and most of the dam authorities are yet to comply with these directions.	The SEC directed MPP & Power to submit an action taken report as per the decisions taken in meeting held on 18th August 2023 under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary. The SEC specifically mentioned that the action against violation be taken in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Dam Safety Act of 2021 with the ultimate goal of promoting effective dam safety in all major dam sites of the State.
9.22	UTILIZATION OF THE SERVICES OF RETIRED ENGINEERS FOR PROMOTING SAFE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES IN THE STATE The proposal was approved by the SEC after detailed discussion.	No data base is uploaded in the HPSDMA and District administration website. Instructions being issued to the DDMA's.	The SDMA and DDMA's to immediately identify retired engineers, who are willing to provide their services and database of such engineers is to be placed on the websites of relevant departments i.e. SDMA, DDMA's, T&CP, RD & PR, UD MCs, etc.

			Further, plan of action be developed to sensitized the general public about safe construction practices.
9.23	NEED OF REGULATION OF CONSTRUCTION IN RURAL AREAS The SEC advised to take up this matter on departmental file for taking any decision in the first instance.	Still construction is not regulated in rural areas. It is evident that proactive action from the Rural Development & TCP Department is crucial to address this issue effectively.	TCP Department to ensure safe construction practices in rural areas – commercial activities to be brought under the ambit of TCP. RD to promote safe construction practices in rural areas as already directed. Action taken to be shared with SEC immediately.
14.7	SCHEME FOR PROMOTING AMATEUR (HAM) AND COMMUNITY RADIOS FOR "ALTERNATE COMMUNICATION DURING EMERGENCIES" The SEC approved this new Scheme for notification after getting the approval from CMM.	The scheme was not placed before the CMM for the approval. Action in this regard will be expedited.	Action taken be shared in due course.
18.3	3.4 Constitution of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) - For making SDRF effective it is required that a meeting be convened with SP, SDRF for area specific specialized equipment planning. - Advisory be issued to Home Department to frame a proper recruitment-transfer-deputation policy within framework of SDRF notification of dated 6th January 2020. The purpose of advisory shall be to make this specialized force permanent in nature and	In this regard, SP-SDRF met with Director-cum-Special Secretary on 20 December 2022. In this regard, the Director-DM has advised the SP to liaison with NDRF and other response agencies and prepares the list of require equipment accordingly. Proper recruitment-transfer-deputation	Since separate agenda item has been placed for the consideration of SEC, this item be dropped from here.

	there shall be no individual transfer except urgent platoon movement is allowed within the deputation period. A special irrevocable bond for the purpose shall be signed by the SDRF personnel when recruited. • Proper training and equipments shall be provided to SDRF.	policy-in this regard Department has not been shared the compliance reports.	
18.5	8.10 Proposal on Hospital Safety Program 8.16 Structural/Safety Audit of Lifeline Buildings • Department DM Plans shall be reviewed by the Secretaries of respective department and feedback may be shared with HPSDMA. • Retrofitting of any 2 hospital buildings as per DPRs submitted by CBRI Roorkee can be examined for funding. • No further extension to IIT Mandi may be given and directions shall be sent for completion within month or else the money may be refunded by IIT Mandi. • Places like Cinemas/Government Colleges etc. with larger footfall may also be taken for SSA in future plans.	In this regard, CBRI Roorkee has prepared the DPR of 40 Government Building of Kangra, Kinnaur Sirmaur and Hamirpur Districts. The District Administration Kangra has selected Three sites named as CHC Garli, Fatepur, Dehra for Retro-fitting and demanded funds tune of Rs. 1.30 Cr and said DPR will be placed before the TAC in meeting scheduled on 4-5 August, 2023.	DM-Cell is advised to collaborate with additional technical institutions for conducting safety audit of Lifeline buildings. Further, as CBRI Roorkee has completed its assigned work, it is advised that the services of CBRI be utilized for Mandi, Kullu and Lahaul & Spiti Districts. This will help the department to meet the timeline of the project. Health Department to appoint Nodal Officer to implement the Hospital Safety Scheme effectively. HP SDMA/DDMAs may assist the Health Department in implementing the Scheme. Issue of retrofitting will be discussed separately.
18.10	15.8 Establishment of State Institute of Disaster Management (SIDM) in the State. SEC noted the action taken and decided to drop the agenda.	The component is added in the External Aided project (AFD). In this regard, department is selected HIPA-	It was approved that the DM-Cell will select HIPA-Fairlawn for the establishment of SIDM.

20th Meeting of the State Executive Committee

		Fairlawn for the establishment of SIDM. The project will be commenced in the year 2024, if signing of loan agreement is approved by the Govt.	
18.11	15.11 Status of the Glacial Lakes Project for activities related to GLOFs be submitted by HIMCOSTE for funding through SDRMF to DM Cell for further appraisal.	The CCC, HIMCOSTE has not shared GLOF related proposal with this department. Reminder has been issued.	The SEC advised that the project proposal for activities related to GLOFs mitigation should be submitted by HIMCOSTE.
18.18	Setting up of the Mitigation Division (Project Management Unit) for SDRMF Externally Aided Projects of SDMA Ex-post facto approval has been given by SEC. It was further appraised that proper codal formalities on file be done before finalization.	The PMU has been approved by the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Meeting on 25th July 2023 and department has invited applications on Secondment basis for the technical posts. Besides, DoP has deputed Sh. Nishant Thakur (H.P.A.S) to assist the Director in DM related activities and he has been ordered to look after the SDRMF related activities.	SEC noted the action taken and decided to drop the agenda.
18.21	Implementation of NDMA'S Upscaling of AapdaMitra Scheme	The 9 districts of Himachal Pradesh have trained 1500 volunteers and the databases of the volunteers have been uploaded in HPSDMA website. The	The SEC noted the agenda & approved the action taken. Agenda item was dropped.

		respective districts are utilizing the services of trained volunteers.-	
18.22	NDMA's project on Emergencies Response Support System (ERSS) for disaster emergencies.	This Department has started the ERSS project and allocated space in SEOC. The ERSS project is operational w.e.f. 1 May 2022 with the help of 1 Supervisor and 3 Data Entry Operator.	The SEC noted the agenda & approved the action taken. Agenda item was dropped.
18.23	Internet allowances to Kanungos and Patwaris Ex-post facto approval has been given by SEC.	On 10th August 2022, an amount of Rs 99.51 lakh was released for the financial year 2022-23. Subsequently, on 27th June 2023, an amount of Rs 76.47 lakh was released for the financial year 2023-24-	The SEC noted the agenda & approved the action taken. Agenda item was dropped
18.24	Requirements of Funds under P&CB head	An amount of Rs 4.77 crore has been allocated to all District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) for the management of Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Additionally, technical personnel have been deputed in the respective DDMA's. Vide this office letter No. Rev (DMC) (F)11-45/2020-CB, dated 03.04.2023.	The SEC noted the agenda & approved the action taken. Agenda item was dropped

18.27	Status update on the Landslide Mitigation Detailed Project Reports (DPRS) submitted to NDMA for approval under National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) SEC noted and directed to follow up with the HPPWD for early updation of the DPRs for resubmission to NDMA for TEC evaluation.	As per discussion with Mrs.SwetaWasia, Consultant, NDMA, mitigation wing, informed that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has closed the existing Landslide Risk Mitigation Project (LRMP) and is now in the process of launching a new National Project for Landslide Mitigation. She also apprised that that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) will be considered as part of this program.	The SEC noted the agenda. Agenda item was dropped
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Agenda Item No. 20.3: Submission of the Memorandum of Damages and Losses of Monsoon to GOI

5. The SEC was informed that the State suffered unprecedented damage and loss during the 2023 Monsoon. In order to seek assistance from the Govt. of India, a memorandum of damage and loss amounting to Rs. 6746.93 has been sent to Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affair, and Department of Disaster Management to seek assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) on 10th August 2023.

6. The Disaster Management Cell has also requested the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to assist the State in carrying out Post Disaster Needs Assessment so that assistance from the central Govt. can be sought for reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

Decision

The SEC noted action taken and accorded ex-post facto approval, items wise, to submit the memorandum to the GOI to seek assistance under NDRF.

Agenda Item No. 20.4: Approval of Expenditure Incurred under SDRF, SDMF and Preparedness and Capacity Building Fund

7. The SEC was informed of the availability of funds under SDRF over the period of XVth FC and the status of funds utilised during the period 2022-23 and 2023-24 (till date) were also shared for approval as under:-

(Amount in Crore)

Financial Year	SDRF			NDRF			Total Availability of Funds (SDRF+ NDRF)	Funds Released to Distt. / Deptt.	Actual Fund Utilized/ drawn	Closing Balance of Funds
	Opening Balance	Received During the year	Total SDRF	Opening Balance	Received During the year	Total NDRF				
2022-23	49.99	380.80	430.79	0.32	214.26	214.58	645.37	639.97	573.66	71.71
2023-24	55.75	400.80	456.55	15.96	-	15.96	472.51	341.01		131.51

Decision

The SEC noted and accorded approval to the amount disbursed/spent/utilized.

Agenda Item No. 20.5: Administration of the State Disaster Mitigation Fund

8. It was brought to the notice of SEC that under the DM Act, 2005, State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and State Mitigation Fund (SDMF) have been notified. The details of funds available for disaster mitigation during the XVth FC period were shared. That the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority have notified guidelines for the management of these funds and norms of assistance for administering relief and carrying out restoration activities.

9. Under the Mitigation Fund, the State will roughly receive around Rs. 750 Cr, out of which 250 Cr. is exclusively for landslide and seismic risk mitigation. As of now 41 projects worth 112 Cr. have been approved for different districts/departments by the SEC under this fund. The DM Cell has notified Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as per the guidelines issued by the MHA and NDMA. The proceedings of the two meetings of the PAC and one meeting of the TAC were shared for approval. That the TAC has recommended the following DPRs for approval:-

Retrofitting of 20 No. of Schools as per the DPR prepared by the CBRI Roorkee and 20 DPRs for retrofitting of 20 number of Health Centres amounting to Rs. 40.25 crore with current cost escalation, as the DPRs have calculated cost in the year 2020.

10. That as per the SDMF/NDMF Guidelines issued by the Govt. of India on 6th March 2023, PAC and TAC have been notified on 10.5.2023 by the Disaster Management Cell (DMC), Department of Revenue. The CMM has also approved PMU in July 2023 to manage the fund. The DMC is in the process to hire consulting firms to prepare DPRs for landslide mitigation, earthquake retrofitting, flood mitigations, etc. so that DPRs can be prepared by the implementing agencies timely and funds can be utilized during the life of 15th Finance Commission i.e. by year 2025. The funds as per guidelines are to be spent on mitigating different hazards, mitigating both structural and non-structural mitigation measures, etc. The draft break-up of the funds was also shared as under, following the MHA/NDMA Guidelines:-

Allocation of Funds under SDMF in Crores (INR)								
S.N	Particulars	Limitation of SDMF	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total
1	Earthquake & Landslide		50	50	50	50	50	250
2	Total Allocation of SDMF		90.8	95.2	100.2	105	110.4	501.6
3	Utilization of SDMF							
3.1	Non Structural (10%)	10% of S.N. 2	9.08	9.52	10.02	10.5	11.04	50.16
3.2	Small Grants (5%)	5% of S.N. 2	4.54	4.76	5.01	5.25	5.52	25.08
3.3	PMU & Admin Charges TAC & PAC Members TA/DA etc from NDMF/SDMF (2%)	NDMF 2% of S.N. 1	1	1	1	1	1	10.03
		SDMF 2% of S.N. 2	1.82	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.21	
		Total of 2% of NDMF & SDMF	2.82	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.21	
3.4	SDMF (83%)	83%	75.36	79.02	83.17	87.15	91.63	416.33
Hazard wise tentative Fund Allocation for 2021 to 2026								
3.4	Tentative Fund Allocation (2021-2026)	A. Earthquake & Landslide (Special Allocation to hill States from NDMF)						
		Landslide	25	25	25	25	25	125
		Earthquake	25	25	25	25	25	125
		Total	50	50	50	50	50	250
		B. SDMF						
		Landslide (40% of S.N. 2)	30.15	31.61	33.27	34.86	36.65	166.53
		Flood Protection (40% of S.N. 2)	30.15	31.61	33.27	34.86	36.65	166.53
		Fire (15% of S.N. 2)	11.30	11.85	12.47	13.07	13.74	62.45
		Other (5% of S.N. 2)	3.77	3.95	4.16	4.36	4.58	20.82
		Total	75.36	79.02	83.17	87.15	91.63	416.33
Grand Total (A & B)		125.36	129.02	133.17	137.15	141.63	666.33	

11. The SEC was requested that The PMU may be allowed to hire consulting firms to prepare DPRs, engage technical and R & D Institutions to help prepare DPRs and supervise mitigation activities in the field, pay TA/DA, fee and honorarium to expert members of TAC as resolved by the PAC, hire vehicles and office space as needed. 2% of the funds available in mitigation can be utilized for administrative expenses.

Decision

- (a) Approval was accorded for notification of Project Appraisal Committee and Technical Advisory Committees notified on 10.5.2023.
- (b) The PMU was allowed to utilize 2% of the SDMF for hire consulting firms to prepare DPRs, engage technical and R & D Institutions to help prepare DPRs and supervise mitigation activities in the field, pay TA/DA, fee and honorarium to expert members of TAC as resolved by the PAC, hire vehicles and office space, salary of staff hired in PMU, etc.
- (c) The DPRs for retrofitting of schools and health institutions amounting to Rs. 40.25 as proposed were approved with cost escalation. The retrofitting may be executed through PWD as the DMC has already trained around 50 engineers from PWD to carry out retrofitting activities.
- (d) The hazard and component wise breakup of total available SDMF was approved, as per the GOI guidelines.

Agenda Item No. 20.6: Raising State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Setting up of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

12. The SEC was informed that the State Government notified SDRF on 06.01.2020 with total strength of 359 personnel. Currently SDRF companies are stationed at:

- ✓ 1st HPAP Battalion (Shimla)
- ✓ 3rd IRBn Pandoh (Mandi)
- ✓ 2nd IRBn Sakoh (Kangra)

13. All the SDRF related matters are being looked after by the department of Home. Presently 178 personnel have been deployed out of 359 personnel. The DMC, Deptt. of Revenue has released an amount of Rs 5 Cr. for procurement of equipment. DM-Cell has been providing financial assistance to conduct the training programmes through the Preparedness & Capacity Building window of State Disaster Response Fund. It was highlighted that the SDRF needs to be raised to its full strength, trained and equipped to deal with the disaster challenges of the State. That the deployment of HP Police personnel to SDRF should be as per NDRF pattern. In order to incentivise the Police personnel, they may be paid risk allowance on the Maharashtra and Uttarakhand pattern. It was also emphasized that FCA cases related to transfer of land for setting up of SDRF need to be expedited. The DGP/SDRF need to prepare design and cost estimates for construction of its campus

at Palampur, where land has already been transferred in the name of Police Department for setting up of SDRF unit.

Establishment of NDRF in the State

14. The Central Cabinet approved establishment of NDRF battalion in Himachal Pradesh on 9.8.2018, *vide* notification No. 17.1/2015 NDRF dated 15.10.2018 (Official Notification Issued by MHA, DM Division). Current status of setting up of NDRF in the State was shared with SEC. It was emphasised that FCA case of setting of NDRF HQ at Mandi need to be expedited by DC Mandi. NDRF need to start construction activities at Rampur where land has already been made available to NDRF. Besides, the NDRF need to be raised to its full strength in the state keeping in view the support provided by the State Govt. in provide temporary accommodation to the force at Nurpur and Mandi.

Decision

- (a) There is urgent need that SDRF is raised as per the sanctioned strength at the earliest. They need to be further properly equipped and trained as per the need of the State. During Relief Commissioners' Conference, the NDRF HQ has shared a vision document for HP SDRF. There is need to develop HP SDRF on those lines.
- (b) The deployment of HP Police personnel to SDRF should be made on NDRF pattern. The DGP is requested appropriate orders accordingly.
- (c) The PHQ may take up the matter with Home Department to provide risk allowance to SDRF personnel on Uttarakhand and Maharashtra pattern.
- (d) Similarly, strengthening of NDRF also needs to be expedited as per the need and requirement of the State. Construction of its campus at Rampur needs to be taken up on priority.
- (e) DC Mandi to ensure prompt action on FCA case of NDRF land in Mandi.

Agenda Item No. 20.7: Establishment of Early Warning System (EWS) by the Specified Dam Authorities as per the CWC Guidelines 2015 and as per the provisions of Dam Safety Act 2021

15. The SEC was informed that in the 9th meeting of the SEC held on 29th May 2019, *vide* agenda Item No. 9.13, report of a study visit to Uttarakhand (Chamoli and Rudraprayag district) was shared with actionable points. Out of the many things the team has seen and learnt from interactions with different stakeholders and project site visits, the following are some of the key recommendations of the Team:

- a) The State should establish automated early warning system (EWS) on the pattern of Uttarakhand which will help downstream the dams to alert the general public as per the CWC guidelines issued in 2014 after the Thalout, Mandi, tragedy. Effective and understandable Public Alert System along with all river beds which have dams

constructed on them by the Dam Authorities should be got installed. Let Himachal learn from Thalout Mandi. Uttarakhand has learned from Himachal Pradesh and installed Sirens with voice message dissemination facility installed along the course of Ganga between Koteshwar and Rishikesh at 08 places with the support of THDCIL.

- b) Proper space for State and District EOC with adequate equipment is highly recommended.
- c) 107 automatic weather stations (AWS), 25 surface field observatories (combination of single Stevenson screen, optical rain gauge and AWS), 28 automatic rain gauges and 16 snow gauges being setup with the World Bank support for improving quality of weather forecasts in Uttarakhand. On the line of Uttarakhand, the Himachal Pradesh needs to improve its weather monitoring system. As on today IMD has its network at a very few places. The State may write to Government of India and may consider following Uttarakhand model.
- d) On the lines of Uttarakhand, the Government of Himachal Pradesh should consider the formation/constitution of State Disaster Response force for swift action in natural as well human induced calamities/disasters.
- e) IIT Roorkee is installing 100 sensors in Kumaun region apart from 98 already installed in Garhwal region for providing earthquake early warning in Uttarakhand. The similar work should also be considered for Himachal Pradesh as the State lies on the Earthquake seismic zone IV and V and we have very low density of Earthquake sensor networks and observatories. HP should adopt Uttarakhand model and may request Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India to provide support to install such sensors and observatories for better monitoring and response of Earthquake disaster.
- f) In disaster prone areas of Himachal Pradesh, where pilgrims constitute a major proportion of floating population, there should be an effective pilgrim management system (Registration of Pilgrims/Biometric registration). This will enable control of movement and assist in rescue and relief operation in any adverse situation.
- g) The State Government may consider the implementation of the surveillance system and software solutions including cameras surveillance and yatra management systems for Shri Manimahesh Yatra on pilot basis. If found effective, it may be replicated in other yatras. It will surely help the district administration to ensure better coordination of yatra from DEOC, Chamba and provide a strong message regarding the safety of the pilgrimage leading to increase in number of pilgrims coming every year in a very short span of time thus helping in reviving the Manimahesh Yatra & economy of the region.

- h) The State may follow the Uttarakhand model of Heli Taxi Services. In case this type of service is replicated in Himachal Pradesh, it will benefit traders and the local populace and will surely help to boost tourism in the State. This will also help to identify the various Heli service operators and identification of helipads, which can also be used during disasters.
- i) Monitoring of all the Major temples, religious fairs and Yatras on the line of Kedarnath model.

16. That the Department has found the recommendations useful and taken the following steps so far: -

- i. Matter has been taken up with Department of MPP and Power, all the Deputy Commissioners and other stakeholder departments/project offices vide letter no. Rev. (DMC) (C) 5-3/2015 dated 13 June 2018 to take appropriate action in Warning systems, all the power developers and Deputy Commissioners to set up Early Warning System on the pattern of Uttarakhand strictly in view of the recommendations of the CWC so that Thalout like incident does not occur again in the State.
- ii. Matter has taken up with local IMD office Shimla to check the adequacy of weather and earthquake monitoring network in the State and thereafter, if need be, the matter will also be taken up with Gol for improving it.
- iii. The report has been shared with all districts and concerned departments for appropriate action.

17. In the same meeting, vide agenda Item No. 9.20, it was decided to ask all dam authorities under the provisions of the Section 22 (2)(f) of the Disaster Management Act to set up early warning system (EWS) as prescribed under CWC Guidelines.

18. The SEC was also informed that in this regard a review was held through VC on 28th June, 2023 with 23 dam authorities by the Director cum Special Secretary. Their attention was drawn to letter written on 18th June 2019 by the Chief Secretary cum Chairman State Executive Committee (SEC) HP constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005. The letter ibid communicated the directions of the SEC to all Dam Authorities situated in Himachal Pradesh, including the BBMB under the provisions of Section 22 (2) (f) of the Disaster Management Act 2005 to implement the Guidelines of Central Water Commission issued in September 2015 and further re-iterated by the National Disaster Management Authority on 1st October 2015 with respect to strengthening of alarm and warning system for safety of people from sudden releases of water from dams. Copies of this communication were shared with your office with the letter.

19. During review meeting held via VC by the Director cum Ex Officio Special Secretary (Revenue-DM) with all the Dam authorities on 28th June 2023 it was pointed to all dam authorities to ensure compliance with CWC guidelines 2015 and provisions of Section 35 of the Dam Safety Act 2021 latest by 15th August 2023.



20. Furthermore, SEC was informed that it has been reported from the ground during the current monsoon season that no EWS currently exists on-site in most of the dams, and the sudden release from the dams have caused extensive damage downstream to the public and private properties. For example century old bridge downstream Pandoh dam has been completely damaged snapping connectivity of large number Panchayats. Houses and businesses of large number of local people have been completely ruined in Pandoh area. Additionally, sudden and large water releases without warning at Pong Dams have led to regular incidents of people getting stranded in deep water downstream of the Pong Dam. NDRF is being pressed into service to rescue the stranded persons. Similar damage and loss have also been reported downstream NHPC Project at Sainj Kullu. The ongoing crisis of jamming of gates of Malana HEP and its over topping also points to a very serious state of affairs.

Decision

- a) This matter has been reviewed separately by the Chief Secretary in view of urgency involved and proceedings issued on 18th August 2023. Copy of the proceedings is at **Annexure – B**. The decision taken in the review meeting were ratified by the SEC for implementation.
- b) The DCs concerned were directed to assess damages and losses due to sudden releases and expenditure incurred on search and rescue and issue notice for loading the expenditure to the dam authorities as per the provisions of the DM Act or otherwise.
- c) Matter may be discussed with IMD to improve weather and seismic network in the State on Uttarakhand pattern and share proposed in next meeting of SEC.
- d) The districts may be advised to consider adopting Sri Kedarnath Model of electronic surveillance and monitoring of Yatras/Temple complexes and share their thoughts/ATR on this.

Agenda Item No. 20.8: Earthquake & Other Disaster Risk and Need of Mitigation & Risk Reduction

21. They say earthquakes don't kill, unsafe structures do. It is true that without ensuring safe construction practices, it is futile to talk about disaster risk reduction. It is a matter of great concern that the State faces serious threat of earthquake. Urgent steps are required to reduce vulnerability and reduce future losses. The State marked 114th Anniversary of 1905 Kangra earthquake on 3-4th April 2019 by organizing various events such as mock drills in educational institutions, memory walks in district and sub-divisional headquarters and by organizing two days national workshop in association with the Central University of the HP. The workshop was attended by around 600 delegates consisting of Scientists, Engineers, Academicians, DRR practitioners, and students and community members. During the workshop, few suggestions/ recommendations were made by the panel of experts to the State. In view of the recommendations on preparing a white paper on earthquake risk mitigation, the DMC prepared a draft 'White Paper on Earthquake Risk Mitigation in the State'. The SEC approved this in its 14th meeting.

22. The SEC was informed that in order to promote safe construction practices, the SDMA has been training masons. A scheme to this effect was notified on 29th September 2018 and launched on 13th October, 2018 with initial target to train 16,130 Masons (5 Masons each in Panchayat). Around 1000 plus masons have been trained till now. Training activities were disrupted due to COVID 19. The districts were also facing issue of Master Trainers. Now new Master Trainers are being trained through CBRI Roorkee. This training activity has resumed now and likely to pick-up shortly.

23. That there is need to enforce building bye laws in all ULBs. Model Building Bye-Laws were circulated by SDMA in 2012 for all ULBs to be adopted. Compliance report is still awaited from the UD Department. Similarly, the RD and PR Department was asked to adopt safe construction practices for rural areas. The response from the department is yet to be received.

24. That in view of the multi-hazard vulnerability of the State to various hazards, it is very important to ensure safe construction practices in the State. The Department of Rural Development & PR, Urban Development and Education need to take immediate call in this regard. Besides, there is need to reduce huge existing built up risk piled up over the years. Key activities which need to be undertaken may include the following:-

- a) Risk based land use planning
- b) Adoption of Model Building Bye Laws by all the ULBs and strict enforcement thereof
- c) Ensuring safe construction practices in rural areas – Private and Public sector constructions.
- d) Retrofitting of critical infrastructure like Schools, hospitals, lifeline buildings, etc.
- e) Preparation of specific strategy to deal with earthquake risk.
- f) Setting up of Hazard Safety Cell to appraise large projects and promote safe construction practices.
- g) Regulating construction near rivers/streams and high slopes.
- h) It is proposed that the DMC may get the database prepared of all retired engineers of PWD, I & IPH, HIMUDA, RD and place the same in SDMA and DDMA's website so that interested persons or departments may utilize their services to undertake safe construction practices, strengthen existing vulnerable structures and training and capacity building of masons, carpenters, bar binders, etc. The modalities of fee, honorarium etc. may be mutually decided by the owner/departments and the engineers. This will result in improving the quality of built up environment in the State and reduce vulnerability towards future disasters.
- i) The White Paper on Earthquake Risk Mitigation may be implemented by all concerned.
- j) Setting up of multi-hazard early warning

Decision:

- a) The SEC accorded in principal approval to the action points proposed. Reviews review with Departments may be organised to expedite actions.

- b) Vigorous follow up of action plan contained in White Paper on Earthquake Mitigation may be done with stakeholder departments and SEC updated regularly.

Agenda Item No. 20.9: Strengthening of Disaster Management Set up in the State

25. The SEC was informed that in order to protect the developmental gains, the State needs effective and robust disaster management set up. Even during the routine small scale disasters, the State has been suffering huge losses in terms of men, material and infrastructure. However, large scale disasters like earthquake can cause huge loss in the state given the current state of vulnerability and readiness. In order to reduce future disaster damages and losses, there is need to strengthen DRR set up in the State. Some of the actions for DRR strengthening are as under:-

- Strengthening of DMC and DDMA's
- Allotment of adequate space for DMC in HP Secretariat to accommodate more manpower
- Strengthening of Fire Services, Home Guard and Civil Defence
- Strengthening of State Disaster Response Force
- Early construction of infrastructure of NDRF
- Setting up State Institute of Disaster Management for training and capacity building
- Focusing on Infrastructure Building for disaster management

26. That in order to achieve the above actions, the DMC has posed two projects for external assistance. One Project worth 100 million Euros has been posed to AFD and another project worth 150 Million USD has been posed to the World Bank. These projects will help develop requisite infrastructure for DRR and also help build capacity of the disaster management agencies and institutions. The DPR of AFD project will be ready by August and the project will be ready for negotiation and signing.

Decision:

The SEC took note of the proposed action and accorded its in-principal approval to the suggestions/proposals.

Agenda Item No. 20.10: Celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) – Samarth 2023

27. It was brought to the notice of the SEC that International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is celebrated on 13th October every year. The SDMA has been marking IDDR as a week-long mass awareness movement under the banner of "Samarth" since 2012. The issue of DRR are highlighted in Gram Sabha Meetings, mock drills are carried in educational institutions across the state, theme based workshops are organised, public awareness activities are carried using artists/cultural troupes

associated with IPR, memory walks are organised, besides the organisation of state level function at Shimla, etc. This year IDDR is proposed to be celebrated from 8-13 October 2023.

Decision:

The SEC approved the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 20.11: Circulation of revised Norms of Assistance notified by the NDM Division of MHA, GOI for SDRF/NDRF.

28. The SEC was informed that the Ministry of Home Affair has revised relief norms vide No.33-03/2020-NDM-I dated 11th July 2023 for relief and restoration measures under SDRF/NDRF. Comparison of revised norms and existing relief norms has been prepared and it is found that the rate of assistance of some items are changed/removed and state has been giving relief on some of the items not covered in MHA norms and in some cases state rates are more than the MHA norms.

29. That, further, as per guidelines of SDRF the expenditure for providing relief to the victims of State-specific natural disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the Government of India (GOI) notified list of disasters, issued by MHA, as per approved norms, may be met from SDRF within the permissible limit of 10 percent of funds of the annual allocation of funding window of the SDRF. However, this flexibility would be applicable only after the State has listed the natural disasters properly for inclusion and notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines for disaster relief for such disasters with the approval of the SEC. Any amount spent by the State for such local natural disasters over and above the ceiling would be borne out of its own resources and would be subject to the same accounting norms.

30. The assistance being provided over and above MHA norms by the State may be allowed to be borne by the State Govt. Besides, there is excess expenditure in state specific disasters against the ceiling of 10%. The DMC may take up the matter with MHA, GOI to accord relaxation and also increase this allocation to at least 30%.

Decision:

- a) The SEC approved the proposal for circulating the MHA norms retaining the items on which state gives over and above the MHA norms.
- b) The matter may also be taken with MHA, GOI to increase the ceiling of expenditure in state specific disasters from 10 % to 30%.

Agenda Item No. 20.12: Working to reduce Vulnerability by Simulation Exercises

31. It was brought to the notice of the SEC that the State faces many hazards such as earthquake, landslide, fires, and avalanche, to name a few. In view of various factors, the vulnerability of the State is very high to these hazards and future losses from these and other hazards in general and earthquake in particular may be very high. One way of working to reduce vulnerability and reduce losses may be preparing scenarios for various hazards and then work to reduce the existing vulnerability to reduce losses and damages. This exercise may be done city wise or district wise in a phased manner.

32. It was proposed that to begin with we may develop earthquake disaster scenario for towns like, Shimla, Mandi and Dharamshala involving expert agencies/institutions/organizations and identify vulnerabilities and thereafter work with the stakeholders to reduce them and mitigate the effects of future earthquakes and other disasters.

Decision

The SEC approved the proposal.

Agenda Item No. 20.13: Investment of Funds under SDRF/SDMF as per the Guidelines issued by MHA, GOI through the Reserve Bank of India

33. SEC was informed that the Guidelines on Constitution and Administration of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) have been issued by Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs (DM Division) vide its letters dated 12.01.2022 and 14.01.2022 respectively. As per these guidelines, on receipt of the funds from Govt. of India and from State Government, the SEC would take action for investment of the funds as per the norms prescribed in the Guidelines. As per para 12 of the guidelines on SDMF and para 23 of guidelines on SDRF, the accretions to these funds together with the income earned on the investments on these funds, shall, till contrary instructions are issued by Government of India, be invested in one or more of the following instruments:-

- (a) Central Government dated Securities.
- (b) Auctioned Treasury Bill; and
- (c) Interest earning deposits and certificates of deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks.

34. Further, these guidelines mandate that the investment of the funds in aforementioned instruments shall be carried out by the branch of the Reserve Bank of India (having Banking Department) at the headquarter of the State.

35. It was proposed to the SEC that the DM-Cell after holding consultation with the representatives of Finance Department, AG, HP had requested to RBI, Shimla branch to provide detailed clarification and sought guidance. The same has been received. In view of above, an amount of Rs.1,37,24,25,131/- is lying in Public Account (Treasury) under State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF), out of which 50% amount of SDMF may be considered for investment in Treasury Bills (91 days) through RBI. Similarly, around 81.40 Cr of second instalment of SDRF can also be invested.

36. Additionally, DM-Cell may ask the RBI for the creation of a separate SGL (Subsidiary General Ledger Account) for the investment of SDRF/SDMF prior to making any investments. It will make it possible for DM-Cell to carry out accurate accounting as per guidelines.

Decision

- a) The SEC approved that out of the available SDMF funds, 50% amount i.e. 68.62 Cr and 81.40 Cr of State Disaster Response Fund may be considered for investment in Treasury Bills (91 days) through RBI.
- b) The DM-Cell may ask the RBI for the creation of a separate SGL (Subsidiary General Ledger Account) for the investment of SDRF/SDMF prior to making any investments to avoid mixing of funds and maintaining proper accounts.

Agenda Item No. 20.14: Utilizations of Funds of SDRF, NDRF and Interest money lying in Bank Account of Deputy Commissioner and SDMs.

37. It was brought to the notice of the SEC that Department of Revenue-DM had sought information from all the deputy commissioners regarding unspent balance of SDRF/NDRF lying in the bank account of their offices and the offices under their control. The information had been shared by all the districts as desired and it was noticed that approximately Rs 128.51 Cr. has been lying in the bank accounts of Deputy Commissioners and the office under their control. Accordingly, the Principal Secretary, Revenue-DM had directed all the Deputy Commissioners on 12.07.2023 to utilize the unspent funds of SDRF/NDRF lying in their bank account at the earliest and if amount not required in any Head of Account, the same may be returned to DM-Cell. Some of the districts have returned the funds to the Bank account of Relief Commissioner-cum Principal Secretary (Revenue). Others, may also do so in due course, in case they don't need these funds. It is expected that the district will utilize the funds available with them in view of huge demand due the recent disaster.

38. It has been noticed that many district don't need fund under many head of accounts. These funds may be transferred to other districts as per need by the DMC. Hence, the SEC may authorize the Principal Secretary (Revenue) for further allocation of above unspent funds, as may be refunded by the district, (including interest earned on SDRF/NDRF funds) in the head of account where

demand exist, to the districts/department where these funds are required during disasters for relief and rehabilitation works strictly as per the norms of SDRF.

Decision

- a) Excess/unwanted unspent fund lying in bank account (including interest earned on SDRF/NDRF funds) be recalled from all the Deputy commissioners and the departments.
- b) The SEC delegated the power to the Principal Secretary (Revenue) to the GoHP to release the funds surrendered by the districts.
- c) It was further decided that the surrendered funds will be further allocated to the districts where there is demand.

Agenda Item No. 20.15: Regarding HPSDMA (Covid-19) State Disaster Response Fund

39. The meeting was informed that HPSDMA (Covid-19) State Disaster Response Fund was constituted vide notification No. Rev-(DMC) (C)-20-4/2020, Dated 10-04-2020 to provide financial and other assistance/immediate relief to persons who are adversely affected by the COVID-19 Epidemic or any kind of public health emergency or any other kind of emergency creation or up gradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities or procuring medical equipment and protective equipment and other necessary infrastructure, funding relevant research or any other type of support.

40. Further, Rule 19 of the ibid notification provided that H.P. COVID-19 SDRF may be wound up by passing a special resolution recording therein the reasons for winding up. The balance lying at the credit of the Fund will be donated to Chief Minister Relief Fund.

41. The detail of the funds available under HP COVID-19 SDRF is as under:-

Name of Bank	Donation	Interest	Total donation & Interest	Allocation	Surrender amount	Balance
State Bank of India	1,07,86,91,675	2,64,28,216	1,10,51,19,891	88,03,78,187	2,08,60,586	24,56,02,289.78
HDFC Bank	35,45,89,198	1,18,34,694	36,64,23,892	30,92,85,932	9,65,360	5,81,03,320
Total	1,43,32,80,873	3,82,62,910	1,47,15,43,783	1,18,96,64,119	2,18,25,946	30,37,05,610

42. Further, the Audit Party of O/O of the Principal AG (Audit) recently conducted the audit of the accounts of the HPSDMA (COVID-19) State Disaster Response Fund, and in Audit Memo number 4, raised the objection that since, the COVID-19 SDRF was created under DM Act, 2005,

20th Meeting of the State Executive Committee

the amount accumulated in the HPSDMA COVID-19 SDRF Fund can only be used for disaster assistance. Further, similar funds are lying in the Bank Accounts of the Deputy Commissioners which has been reported by the Audit Party of AGHP during Certification Audit of SDMA/DDMAs.

Decision

The SEC decided that funds available in district generated for COVID 19 be recalled from the districts and deposited in HPSDMA COVID-19 SDRF account so that these funds can be used during disaster situation as and when required.

Agenda Item No. 20.16: Administration of Preparedness and Capacity Building Funding Window under the (NDRF) and (SDRF) based on the recommendations of Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) for the financial year 2021-22 to 2025-26.

43. The 15th Finance Commission while recommending Disaster Management Grants has allocated 10% of the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) for Preparedness & Capacity Building (P&CB), a sub-window to support preparedness, capacity building, and strengthening of critical institutional capacity, functional and technological components of the disaster management system. The 15th FC has further issued that a separate set of guidelines be developed for Preparedness & Capacity Building (P&CB) funding window.

44. The Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 empowers the National, State and District Disaster Management Authorities to take measures for the prevention of disasters, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with the threatening disaster situation or disasters.

45. The Sec was informed that as per the 15th Finance Commission allocation for SDRF, the budget available for Preparedness and Capacity Building window for the Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26 is as under:-

Detail of Budget Provision/Expenditure of Preparedness & Capacity Building					
Financial Year	Opening Balance	Budget Provision (Current FY)	Total Funds available	Expenditure/ Allocation	Closing Balance (In Crores)
2020-21	6.40	45.40	51.80	9.63	42.17
2021-22	42.17	22.72	64.89	59.33	5.56
2022-23	5.56	47.60	53.16	39.91	13.25
2023-24	13.25	50.10	63.35	1.85	61.50
Total Available Funds as on 09-08-2023					61.50

46. That during the period of Finance Commission, the State will receive around 273 crore. These funds are to be spent on Training and Capacity Building, Strengthening of SEOC and Strengthening of the DEOCs strictly as per the SDRF guidelines. The Projects under Preparedness and Capacity Building are approved in the State Executive Committee. The details of proposals received in the DMC are as under:-

- a) UNDP – Strengthening of Disaster Risk Management System in HP – Rs. 14.21 Cr.
- b) HP SEDC, HP – Use of Drones for Effective Disaster Management in HP – Rs. 15.0 Cr.
- c) Proposal of Capacity Building from SDRF –Purchase of equipment, etc.18 Cr– Rs.

47. The SEC was also informed that under this provisions, the DMC has been implementing the following 6 Schemes for training and capacity building in the State:-

- a) Training and capacity building of masons, carpenter, bar binder, etc.
- b) Raising of Task Force of Youth Volunteers
- c) School Safety Project
- d) Hospital Safety
- e) Structural Safety of Lifeline Buildings
- f) Internship with SDMA/DDMAs

48. The Principal Secretary (Revenue) may be authorized to release funds to the implementing agencies as per requirement and norms from time to time to implement the above schemes of DMC.

49. The SP SDRF and MD, HSEDC made detailed presentation about their respective proposals. The proposal submitted by the UNDP to support SDMA/SEC in its activities was also discussed.

50. The EnC PWD and Special Secretary (PWD) informed that the Department has moved proposal to purchase 13 No. of Baily Bridges amounting to Rs. 22.02 crore to restore connectivity and improve response in view of the current disaster situation. The same is also required to be approved in view of emergent situation. The installation of bridges will enhance the capacity of Department and system as a whole to meet out the challenges thrown by the ongoing disaster situation.

Decision

- a) The SEC accorded approval to release funds to SDRF for purchase of equipment as per their estimate.
- b) The proposal of purchase of 13 No. of Bailey Bridges submitted by Principal Secretary (PWD) was approved.



- c) The SEC also allowed DMC to get activities proposed by UNDP w.r.t. up-dation of DMPs, implementation of Hospital Safety & School Safety Components, Techno-legal regime, Organisation of Exposure Visits, etc., executed through it on actual cost basis.
- d) The MD, HP SEDC was asked to carry out pilot in 3 districts initially and re-submit proposal accordingly.
- e) The SEC has noted and accorded approval to the amount disbursed/spent/utilized.
- f) Further, the Principal Secretary (Revenue) was authorized to release funds to implement various schemes being run by HP SDMA.

Agenda Item 20:17 Rectification of an order issued by Chairman, SEC to regulate the Stone Crusher Activities.

51. The SEC was informed that the Chairman of the State Executive Committee (SEC) has issued an order under Section 24 (1) of the Disaster Management Act 2005. The order, with reference number Rev-DMC (F) 11-1/2022-SEC dated 23rd August 2023, is related to the regulation of stone crusher activities along the Beas River and its tributaries. The matter was placed for ex post facto approval of the SEC

Decision

The SEC noted the agenda and approved the action taken.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Approved by

(Prabodh Saxena)
Chief Secretary-cum Chairman, SEC
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Rev (DMC)(F) 11-1/2022/SEC

Dated 08.09.2023

Copy forwarded for information and necessary actions to the following:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
2. All the members of State Executive Committee, HP.
3. All the Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman DDMA's in Himachal Pradesh.
4. The Sr. Pvt. Secretary to worthy Chief Secretary cum Chairman SEC, HP
5. All the DAs in DMC.


(Onkar Chand Sharma)
Principal Secretary (revenue) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Cum Member Secretary, SEC

Annexure-A

List of Participants

1. Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma, Pr. Secretary (Revenue) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
2. Sh. Sanjay Kuddu, DGP-HP, Nigam Vihar
3. Ms. M. Sudha Devi, Secretary, Health to the GoHP, Shimla-2
4. Sh. Rakesh Kanwar Secretary Agriculture, AH, RDD & PR to the GoHP, Shimla-2
5. Sh. D.C Rana Director Cum Special Secretary, (Rev-DM) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
6. Sh. Ajay Gupta, EnC, PWD, Shimla
7. Sh. Harbans Singh Brascon, Special Secretary (PWD) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
8. Sh. Rohit Jamwal Special Secretary (Finance) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
9. Sh. Harbans Singh Brascon, Special Secretary (PWD) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
10. Manoj Chauhan Special Secretary (Home) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
11. Sh. Balwan Chand, Joint Secretary (Rev-DM) to the GoHP, Shimla-2
12. Ms. Ilma Afroz, SP SDRF, o/o DGP, Shimla-2
13. Sh. Surender Paul, Director IMD, Met Centre-Shimla-1
14. Er. Ajay Kapoor, SE Public works Department Nigam Vihar Shimla-2
15. Er. Deepak Jasrotia Dy. CE (Energy) Directorate of Energy Kasumptati Shimla-09
16. Er. D. P Gupta CE (Energy) Directorate of Energy Shimla Kasumptati Shimla-09
17. Dr. SS Randhawa, Principal Scientific Officer, CCC, HIMCOSTE, Shimla-1
18. Sh. Nishat Thakur, Mitigation Wing Head, DM-Cell, Revenue, Shimla-2
19. Sh. Vinod Sharma, Section Officer, DM-Cell, Revenue, Shimla-2
20. Sh. SubhashVerma Superintendent
21. Dr. Rohit Chauhan, RS & GSI, DM-Cell, Revenue, Shimla-2
22. Sh. Praveen Bhardwaj, DMS, DM-Cell, Revenue, Shimla-2
23. Sh. Nitin Sharma, T&CBC, DM-Cell, Revenue, Shimla-2

Annexure - 1

MINUTES OF MEETING ON SAFETY ISSUES REGARDING DISCHARGE OF WATER FROM DAMS HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF WORTHY CHIEF SECRETARY, GoHP ON 18.08.2023 AT 11:30AM IN HP SECRETARIAT SHIMLA.

The meeting to review the safety issues related to sudden discharge of water from dams was held on 18.08.2023 under the chairmanship of the worthy Chief Secretary to the GoHP in the C.S. office Ellerslie Building HP Secretariat Shimla. The respective Dam authorities were connected through virtual mode.

2. The consolidated list of participants present (Physically & Virtually) is attached as per **Annexure-I**.
3. At the outset, the Shri D.C. Rana, Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM), GoHP welcomed the Chair & all the participants present physically & virtually. Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM) then submitted a brief overview of the meeting's agenda to all participants and stated that the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA-HP) along with State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO-HP) will be jointly presenting a comprehensive Power Point presentation focusing on the safety issues associated with the sudden discharge releases from the dams and other related aspects.
4. Er. Deepak Jasrotia Head SDSO-HP apprised the Chair and participants about the status of 23 Specified Dams & 7 under construction Dams in Himachal Pradesh. He briefed the participants about the issues related to sudden discharge of water from dams, other dam safety related issues and about the implementation of Dam Safety Act in the State after its enactment by parliament in December 2021 and subsequent GoHP notification w.r.t. constitution of State Committee on Dam Safety (SCDS-HP) & State Dam Safety Organization (SDSO-HP) in May 2022.
5. Shri Sanjay Kundu, Director General of Police, GoHP emphasized the importance of conducting pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections of Specified Dams and ensuring the implementation of Early Warning Systems (EWS) effectively. He highlighted the vulnerability factor associated with Dams in Himachal Pradesh in view of State's geographical situation and peculiar/unpredicted weather conditions. Shri Kundu suggested that Dam authorities must be directed to conduct the comprehensive Dam risk assessments analysis. He further suggested to develop and implement an integrated monitoring and data sharing information systems so that reservoir and operations of Dams situated in cascade in the basin be managed and controlled uniformly and more effectively in adverse conditions.
6. Taking the proceedings further Shri D.C. Rana recalled the tragic incident of 2014 in Beas River at Thalout, where in 24 students lost their lives due to the sudden release of water from the Larji Dam despite the sounding of hooters and sirens. He informed the participants that in response to this incident, the Central Water Commission (CWC), Government of India, introduced guidelines for Early Warning Systems (EWS) in 2014 and 2015. He stated that the State Executive Committee had directed Dam authorities to adhere to these guidelines and ensure the proper alert to populations downstream during release of water from dams but those were not complied by many a Dam authorities as a whole.
7. Shri D.C. Rain highlighted on the issue of non-effective implementation of proper Early Warning Systems (EWS) by Dam authorities. He stated a review meeting was taken up on 28/06/2023 with all Dam authorities wherein it was directed to dam authorities for establishing

and implementing the comprehensive Early warning system (EWS) till 15th August, 2023, but it's unfortunate that many a Dam authorities have yet not complied upon the same. Shri Rana underscore the need for sirens to be accompanied by voice messages in both English and Hindi, which several dam authorities were failing to adhere to and still continuing with outdated warning system. He further recommended to establish a centralized control center with the capability to operate sirens and voice messages from remote not even by Dam authorities but also by SDMA, DDMA & SDSO.

8. Pr. Secretary Revenue Shri Onkar Sharma stated that indeed this is a failure on part of Dam authorities to implement the Dam Safety Act's norms and CWC Guidelines effectively, as it has made the state to suffer heavy losses. He stated that the big projects even don't carry the basic requirements by citing the example of the Malana-II incident, where dam authorities lacked basic communication infrastructure, such as satellite phones, real-time monitoring and EWS. Shri Sharma stressed that there are other vulnerable HEPs with Dams/ barrages and having considerable storage also so SCDS & SDSO must consider them under Specified Dams to ensure their regular monitoring in line with Dam Safety Act. He highlighted that SVP Bhaba in Distt. Kinnaur is one such HEP which should immediately be considered.
9. Further in the meeting Er. Deepak Jasrotia apprised the Chair and the participants in a short span of one year after the constitution of SCDS & SDSO in the state they have taken up the task in line with roles and duties as defined in the Dam safety Act. He stated that SCDS have conducting the meeting regularly. A meeting for monsoon preparedness with all Dam authorities were taken on 30th May 2023, meeting on EWS installation was held in association with SDMA on 28th June and further the midterm monsoon review was taken up on 20th July 2023 where in even the concerned district authorities were also made part of. Recently on 26.06.2023 in the Board meeting of BBMB w.r.t. discharge release schedule/mechanism the concerns of state were effectively raised with BBMB authorities by associating the District authorities of Kangra, Mandi & Bilaspur along. Mr. Jasrotia further stated that as for as effective EWS implantation is concerned Nathpa & Koldam authorities are complying to desirable standards, However 11 Dam authorities have put in efforts but still not near to desirable norms and rest 10 dams just have basic EWS system and they seriously need to come up hard. For all 23 Dams the required pre monsoon inspections have been completed, 24 x 7 Dam safety units have been placed at all Dams but some of Dam are still lagging in placement of experienced staff. All Dams except Nathpa Dam do not possess the full proof communication system like the Satellite phones. The hydro metrological stations are in place but some of them required to be updated and further their integration with relevant stakeholders has been asked for. 14 dams have seismological station. Further as per Dam Safety Act all Dam authorities have been asked for taking up comprehensive dam safety evaluation through an independent panel of experts within five years of date of commencement of Dam safety Act. Mr. Jasrotia stated that Dam Break analysis have been taken up by some of the Dams authorities but they are required to be updated by including the GLOF aspects and changed river regime & its compromised/changed carrying capacity further it should compliment with hydraulic routing study taken up in different scenario through proper modeling, accordingly the Dam authorities have been directed.
10. On the issue of probable Dam breach scenario Er. Jasrotia stated that Malana-II & Koldam have developed problems. In Koldam the detachment of flip bucket and plunge pool sinking

issues cropped up and SDSO immediately intervened, NTPC authorities made serious efforts, involved experts agencies and started the rectification work which is likely to be completed before next monsoon season as per dam authorities. The situation is under controlled as even with half measures they could pass a discharge of approx. 2200 cumex through spillway this year.

11. On Malana-II issue he stated that the sudden gates closure problem had happened again, in year 2013 and after having the detailed inspection the rectification and alternate safety measures were suggested and after submission of design & mechanism based on detailed investigation by the Dam authorities same were approved by Directorate of Energy 2018. But despite repeated and regular instructions dam authorities failed to comply the instructions. Immediately after 2nd incident of overtopping SDSO team visited the Dam Site on 30.07.2023 along with District administration and appropriate remedial measures were suggest in line with already approved proposal. The steps and measures with regard to EWS, to control the losses, taking up prior evacuation of vulnerable habitations downstream were all discussed and direction were imparted of is effective implementation. The ratification work is going and SDSO is continuously reviewing the situation on daily basis. With regard to issue of BBMB baggi canal it was apprised to the chair and participants that the site visit has been conducted by Chief Engineer (Energy), DoE and appropriate directions are being imparted to BBMB authorities.
12. On the suggestion of including SVP Bhaba in the category of specified dam list Er. Jasrotia apprised that in the SCDS meeting the matter has been deliberated at length and on receipt of few clarification from project developers in the next meeting it will be recommended to NCDS, NDSA and CWC for inclusion of this dam in the list of specified dams in the country so as to have its monitoring and surveillance in line with Dam Safety Act. On the suggestion to develop and implement an integrated monitoring and data sharing information systems so that reservoir and operations of Dams situated in cascade in the basin be managed and controlled uniformly and more effectively it was submitted that already in association with SDMA the State Dam Safety Organization is taking up a proposal of setting up basin level control centre in every basin which will be funded, established and run by the respective dams authorities of that particular basins and these will be connected with all stake holders. The target to complete this tasks has been kept 31st March, 2024.
13. In the end Mr. Jasrotia submitted that except few, most of the Dam authorities are not putting up the required efforts as are required as per Dam Safety ACT, related to installation and implementation of EWS, having sufficient funds for O&M, placing the required experienced staff for operation at Dam and timely and honestly adhering to the instructions of SDMA, SCDS & SDSO. Even the required in time information/data obtaining from most of the Dam authorities has become a challenge for State monitoring agencies. As for as monitoring and surveillance is concerned even with the very skeleton structure the SDSO is taking up the tasks by putting best of efforts and is in continuous touch with all dam authorities, concerned Distt. authorities and SDMA's for providing the necessary assistance and support.
14. Further in the meeting Shri Harikesh Meena, Director (Energy), GoHP stated that since all the dams in the States are of Hydroelectric projects hence every developer is more towards the commercial interests and the important safety concerns are being sidelined. Though after enactment of Dam Safety Act the SCDS and SDSO formed are taking up the tasks of

surveillance and monitoring seriously and in line with the provision of Dam Safety Act. However for more effective functioning the SDSO needs to be strengthened. As the top level functionaries in SDSO are with additional charges and the middle and lower level functioning posts are vacant. This is more important in a view to have the regular monitoring and surveillance of the CPSU owned projects for which otherwise the SDSO is National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) but the dams are in the state and impacting the State.

15. At last worthy Chief Secretary, GoHP stated that Dam Safety seems to be an area wherein more attention & focus is required in view of the current incidents reported wherein the sudden discharge of water from the Dams have created devastation downstream which has resulted in damage to the public & private property, agriculture produces, beside hampering the road networks significantly. He stressed that many dams authorities have failed in fulfilling their duties as specified under Dam Safety Act as the relevant provision under Dam safety Act like setting up of Early Warning Systems, Water release Guidelines, setting up of fully equipped Control rooms at Dam site, having updated Emergency Action Plans, reservoir operation manuals and all time communication networks have not been effectively adhered to as per CWC guidelines. Further the Dam owners across the state are yet to carry out comprehensive Dam risk assessments, which cannot be delayed more.
16. As such in view of the detailed deliberations held as stated above the following directions imparted by Worthy Chief Secretary, GoHP for immediate compliance:

- a) Since it is the prime responsibility of Dam authority to adhere and implement the provisions as stated in Dam Safety Act, 2021, guidelines of CWC, 2015 and to act upon the direction as imparted by other authorities such as SDMA, SCDS and SDSO, immediate show cause notices be issued to all concerned authorities which have failed to comply the provision and instructions which in turn has lead to devastation in the downstream area of dams. (Action by DoE)
- b) In view of recent incidents occurred in Malana-II Dam, Parbati-III Dam, Pandoh Dam and Pong Dam, these four dams needs specific investigation. As such a committee headed by Chief Engineer (Energy), DoE including head SDSO-HP, independent appropriate level technical members from CWC, ADM level officer from respective Distt. and appropriate level Dam Safety experts from other agencies may be constituted. The committee will inspect these four dams and based upon the inspection and the relevant data and information will submit a comprehensive report to the Govt.
- c) The cost incurred on rescue missions and the amount assessed for dam related damages and losses shall be recovered from the concerned dam owners. The concerned Department will initiate the process immediately after receiving the claims. Concerned DCs be asked to prepare damage and loss assessment reports. (Action by DMC Dept. Of Revenue)
- d) Initiate criminal cases against dam authorities, if the compliances to the instructions and the show cause notices are not adhered upon in time. Also if found responsible through the inspection reports as per above for four projects the criminal proceedings shall be taken up immediately. (Action by DoE)
- e) A good panel of lawyers be consulted and hired on the subject matter to take up further legal course as shall be required. (Action by DoE)

- f) BBMB BSL project authorities be asked for not maintaining the Baggi Canal and putting up the inhabitants surrounded at risk.
- g) The State owned dams to be upgraded as a role model w.r.t. effective implementation of dam safety provisions within three months' time. (Action by DoE)
- h) State Disaster Management Authority to analyse the violations under Disaster Management Act despite directions to the concerned dam authorities on setting up Early Warning Systems. (Action by DMC Dept. Of Revenue)
- i) Directorate of Energy, GoHP to submit a proposal for SDSO strengthening for more effective functioning w.r.t. monitoring and surveillance of all dams in the State. (Action by DoE)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.

Approved by

(Prabodh Saxena)
Chief Secretary to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Rev (DMC) (F) 11-45/2020-CB

Dated

August, 2023.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to all the participants of the meeting.


22/8/23
(D. C. Rana)

Director-cum-Spl. Secy. (Rev-DM)
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Annexure-A

List of the Participants

1. Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma (IAS), Principal Secretary (Rev-DM).
2. Sh. Rajeev Sharma, Secretary MPP & Power.
3. Sh. Sanjay Kundu, DGP, HP.
4. Sh. D.C. Rana (IAS), Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM).
5. Sh. Harikesh Meena, Director Energy.
6. Er. D.P. Gupta, CE (Energy) DOE.
7. Er. Deepak Jasrotia, Dy. Chief Engineer DoE.
8. Sh Vijay Singh, IT Coordinator, DM-Cell.