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dt.18th September,2000.

Sub:- Utilisation of Civil Defence and Home Guard Volunteers for Disaster Management.

I am directed to draw your attention to this Ministry's letter No.5/27/68 dt.30th August,69 regarding the above mentioned subject (copy enclosed) and to impress upon you the need for revamping the Civil Defence and Home Guard Organisation so that they could be used at the time of any crises.

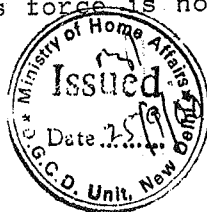
2. You are aware of the fact that Home Guard has been raised in the States/UTs to perform the following roles:-

- (a) ✓ Serve as an auxiliary to the police and assist in maintaining internal security.
- (b) Assist the community in any kind of emergency (air raids, fire, flood, an epidemic and so on).
- (c) Organised functional unit to provide essential services such as motor transport, pioneer and engineering group, fire brigade, nursing and first-aid, operation of water and power supply in installation, etc.

3. It will thus be noticed that Home Guards have been assigned the important task of assisting the community in any kind of emergency which includes disasters. Unfortunately, this role of the Home Guard has been relegated and they are being utilised entirely as an auxiliary to the police, so much so that they perform almost all the duties of police. In an emergency this vast resource is not utilised to respond to the emergency and mitigate the sufferings of the people. It is noticed that even in the basic training this aspect is neglected.

4. Every State faces one or the other type of natural or man made disasters at some time. There is no plan or organisation for immediate response. If the two volunteer organisations Home Guard and Civil Defence are properly geared up and trained properly they will be available to State Governments an immediate response teams for any crises.

5. It is urged that the Home Guards are properly and fully trained in areas of disaster management - such as rescue, first aid etc. The deployment of HGs for various roles assigned to them may be analysed and a balance brought about so that the purpose of organising a voluntary citizen's force is not defeated.



(R.K. Singh)
Joint Secretary(CS)

To

- 1. Home Secretaries
Govt. of all States/UTs.
- 2. Commdt.General Home Guard &
Director Civil Defence of all States.

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