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No.VI-14024/1/M/2003-DGCD(CD)
Government of India
Directorate General Civil Defence
Ministry of Home Affairs
DGCD(CD) Section
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Jaisalmer House, Mansingh Road,
New Delhi-110 011

Dated 29th August,2003.

To

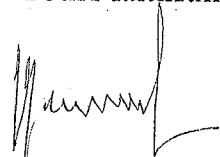
All the Members - 26
As per the list enclosed.

Sub:- Minutes of the Home Secretary's Civil Defence Committee held on 27th May,2003 at North Block.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to enclose copy of the Minutes of the above mentioned meeting for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,



(J.R. Kaushik)
Asstt. Director General(CD)

Copy to:-

1. Director Civil Defence of all States/UTs 35
2. Director National Civil Defence College, Nagpur
3. Ministries/Departments as per list (JPC Members)
4. JS(DM), DGCD,
5. HG, Comn, AD(CD) Section.

1000
BY POST

Signature:  Date: 5.9

29

- 1 -

**MINUTES OF THE HOME SECRETARY'S CIVIL DEFENCE COMMITTEE HELD ON
27TH MAY, 2003 AT MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

A meeting of Home Secretary's Civil Defence Advisory Committee was held on 27th May, 2003 in the Conference Hall of North Block. The list of officers present is at Annexure.

OPENING REMARKS:

1. In his opening remarks the Chairman welcomed all the members of the Civil Defence Committee and emphasized the need for revamping and strengthening of Civil Defence. He noted that after 1971, the Civil Defence organization has been neglected and has lost its focus. The fact that the meeting of the Civil Defence Advisory Committee is being held after a gap of 22 years speaks for itself. At the same time, the role of Civil Defence cannot be underestimated, particularly in the present context. The Chairman emphasized the need for active involvement of all the concerned Ministries in putting the organization back on rails.

AGENDA ITEMS:

2. The Director General Civil Defence initiated the discussion by briefing the members about the Civil Defence set up. While briefing the delegates, Director General Civil Defence mentioned that during the Second World War, the Ministry of Defence had raised an ARP (Air Rapid Precaution) organization consisting of volunteers which was wound up after the war. In 1956 an Emergency Relief Cell was opened in MHA and States were asked to set up Emergency Relief set-ups. It was only after the Chinese aggression in 1962, that the Government of India felt the urgent need of setting up Civil Defence organization in the country. Subsequently Lt.Gen. S.F. Irwin, Chief of U.K. Civil Defence, was invited to assist Government of India in setting up the Civil Defence Organisation. The Civil Defence organization played a key role in the 1965 and 1971 war, but unfortunately thereafter it has gone into disarray. There was a felt need to reorganize it, strengthen it and restore its focus.

- 2 -

28

ITEM NO.1

ROLE OF CIVIL DEFENCE AND ITS PRESENT STATUS:

3. As a follow up action, Civil Defence Act was enacted in Parliament in the year 1968. In the Act, Civil Defence has been defined as under:-

“Civil Defence” includes any measure, not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack, whether from air, land, sea or other places, or, for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effects, whether such measures are taken before, during, at or after the time of such attack.”

4. DGCD explained the role of Civil Defence in India and also its statutory provisions in the Civil Defence Act 1968. He emphasized the use of Civil Defence volunteers for disaster management and accordingly stressed the need to amend the Civil Defence Act so as to enlarge its scope.

5. Shri R.K. Singh, Joint Secretary(DM), Ministry of Home Affairs apprised all delegates that use of Civil Defence volunteers in Disaster management and amendment of CD Act had been discussed with the Ministry of Law and necessary amendments were under examination of the Ministry of Law.

Action: Ministry of Law/JS(DM)

6. DGCD suggested the following steps for revamping the organization:-

- (a) Enhancement of Civil Defence budget by way of Civil Defence Modernisation Grant and increased reimbursement.
- (b) Funding of modernization of Home Guards under the Police Modernisation Grant.
- (c) Review of system of threat assessment.
- (d) Review of policy for categorization of CD towns..
- (e) Re-defining the role of Civil Defence so as to make it an important tool to deal with not only war situations but also for effectively supplementing the efforts of Government in disaster management.
- (f) Awareness campaign needs to be geared up.

7. It was noted that a Review Committee had been set up to make recommendations regarding the steps to be taken to revamp the organization. The recommendation of the review Committee had been received, and the Cabinet note was being prepared. Action on review of system of threat assessment or review of policy of categorization of towns has to be initiated by the DGCD.

8. With regard to revision of policy for categorization of CD towns, Armed Forces Officers were of the opinion that inputs from States should also be taken, as vital plants/installations located at different places are required to be protected.

09. DGCD was requested to attempt a list of vital installations with the help of officers on deputation from various States in the Ministry.

Action: DGCD

10. Brig. Rajagopal of Army gave a presentation on the threat perception. He highlighted the capabilities of our neighbouring countries and the types of threat applicable in today's context which include conventional and unconventional threats.

11. It was decided that the Civil Defence machinery needed to be strengthened and operationalised in and around the periphery of targeted areas.

Action: DGCD

ITEM NO.2:

REVAMPING OF CIVIL DEFENCE - RECOMMENDATION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE:

12. The delegates were informed that Group of Ministers on Internal Security had suggested the revamping of Civil Defence. The Group of Ministers Committee have observed as under:-

“ During times of war, natural calamities and other similar emergencies, Civil Defence organization has traditionally played a vital role in guarding the hinterland; supporting the Armed Forces; mobilizing the citizens and in helping Civil administration discharge its responsibilities.

Over the years however new and complex challenges have emerged. The preparedness of the Civil Defence personnel has also suffered as its periodic exercises have become routinized and tended to be neglected. It is essential, therefore, for the Ministry of Home Affairs to carry out in-depth review of the organization's effectiveness, identify its weaknesses and the new challenges it will be required to meet in the contemporary scenario and evolve a concrete action plan to revamp it. This important task need to be undertaken in close collaboration with the State Governments. It is advisable to complete this exercise on an urgent basis."

13. As a follow up action on the directions of the Group of Ministers , a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary(BM), Ministry of Home Affairs was constituted which has made the following recommendations:-

- (a) Enhancement of Civil Defence budget by way of a Civil Defence Modernisation Grant and increased reimbursement to the States.
- (b) Enhancement of duty/training allowances for Civil Defence volunteers.
- (c) Awareness programme for Civil Defence.
- (d) The subject of the Civil Defence to be incorporated in schools and colleges curriculum.
- (e) Amendment of CD Act - with a view to make it compulsory to raise Civil Defence Corps in categorized towns.
- (f) Revamping of Central Training Institutes in States.

14. It was mentioned that the Review Committee has completed its task and the recommendations are being processed for consideration and appropriate decisions by the Government.

Action: JS(DM), MHA.

ITEM NO.3:

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN CIVIL DEFENCE, AS PER UNION WAR BOOK:

15. The Director General Civil Defence mentioned that the Joint Planning Staff Committee (of which he is the Chairman) Meeting was held in December,2002 when duties of each Ministry/Department in respect of Civil Defence as brought out in the Union War Book were reiterated.

16. It was decided that the relevant extracts of Union War Book highlighting the duties of each Ministry in respect of Civil Defence may be forwarded to the concerned Ministries for ready reference.

Action: DGCD

ITEM NO.4:

STRATEGY FOR AWARENESS GENERATION FOR CIVIL DEFENCE:

17. It was felt that public awareness could be created by use of print and electronic media and other means of generating awareness and by incorporating the basic concepts of Civil Defence in the curriculum in schools/colleges. Adequate funds should be allotted to States for taking up awareness programme.

18. It was decided that the matter be taken up with the Ministry of HRD for inclusion of Civil Defence in the curriculum of schools.

19. With regard to allocation of funds for awareness programme, the matter will be examined in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Action: JS(DM)/FA

20. The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE

**N. OPALASWAMI
HOME SECRETARY, MHA**

CHAIRMAN

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Shri B.L. Vohra

Director General Civil Defence

Shri K.P. Singh

Additional Secretary(BM)

Shri N.A. Vishwanathan

FA(Home)

Shri R.K. Singh

Joint Secretary(DM)

Shri L.C. Goyal

Joint Secretary(IS)

Shri M.P. Sajnani

Director(NDM)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Maj. Gen. Dilip N. Desai

ADG(MO), Army Headquarter

Air Marshal R.C. Mahadik

Air Headquarter

Rear Admiral
R.F. Contractor

NM Asstt. Chief of the
Naval Staff (Naval Hqr.)

Shri Arvind Joshi

Joint Secretary(G)

Brig. Raja Gopal

GP. Capt. J.S. Dhillon

Shri S.P. S. Basra

Director(OPS) Coast Guards

MINISTRY OF LAW D/O LEGAL AFFAIRS:

Shri N.L. Meena

Joint Secretary & Legislative Counsel

MINISTRY OF FINANCE D/O EXPENDITURE:

Smt. Sushma Nath

Joint Secretary

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY:

Shri S.V. Bhawe

Joint Secretary

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION:

Shri R.C. Malhotra

Sr. DDG(CS)

Shri Rakesh Kumar

DDG(SU)

Shri Madhu Arora

Director (SU-I)

7

MINISTRY OF LABOUR:

Shri S.K. Saxena

Director General

MINISTRY OF HEALTH:

Mrs. Tyag Rajan

Joint Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

Shri R. Balasubramanian

Member (MSG)