

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Review of National Disaster Response Force

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 13th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Estimates]

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2022-23)

TWENTY FIFTH REPORT

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(Presented to Lok Sabha on..21 March 2023.)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

.....March, 2023/.....Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2022-2023)

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3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
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| 2. | Shri Muraleedharan. P | Director |
| 3. | Shri Kuldeep Pegu | Under Secretary |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-Fifth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Committee on the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. The 13th Report of the Committee on Estimates was presented to Lok Sabha on 4th April, 2022. The Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the 13th Report on 03 October, 2022. The draft report was considered and approved on 16 March, 2023, by the Committee.

3. An analysis of action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Committee on Estimates is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;

16 March, 2023
25 Phalguna ,1944 (Saka)

GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the Thirteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Review of National Disaster Response Force" pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

2. The Thirteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 04.04.2022. It contained 15 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of the Government in respect to all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

3. Replies to the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have broadly been categorized as under:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation. Para No 3,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,14 and 15

**Total: 10
(Chapter-II)**

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply: NIL

**Total: 00
(Chapter-III)**

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation. Nos. 01 and 13

**Total:02
(Chapter-IV)**

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final reply of Government is still awaited:

Recommendation. No. 2,5,9

**Total: 03
(Chapter-V)**

4. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes in respect of the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final Action Taken Reply in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter-V for which interim replies have been given by the Government may be furnished to them within six months of the presentation of the Report to the House.

5. The Committee will now deal with the Observations/Recommendations which require reiteration or merit further comments.

Observations/Recommendations (Para Nos. 1 and 13)

6. In their recommendation contained in the original 13th Report, the Committee had stated as under:

“Natural and man-made disasters have had their sad history in India. With a worrying climate change in the last few decades, the Country has seen many disasters like floods in various States like Bihar, Kashmir and Uttarakhand and in cities like Mumbai and Chennai, Indian Ocean Tsunami, Gujarat Earthquake, Odisha super cyclone etc. Hence, the need for a dedicated force like NDRF was felt and consequently the same has been raised by the Government. The Committee note the achievements of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in dealing with various types of disasters in the Country since its inception in 2006. It, quite appreciably, has not only rescued and evacuated innumerable human lives but also rescued livestock during their operations, with professional expertise and requisite dedication so far. The Committee have been made to understand that during the time of the setting up of NDRF, there were many challenges before the Government and hence, it was decided to consider NDRF as 100% deputationist force, drawing personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for a period of 7 years, with the objective to keep it as a young force. Besides, being at the peak of physical agility, Youth force is dynamic in nature as most skills and orientations are acquired in this age. The Committee, hence, recommend that while the concept of 100% deputationist force is apt for the purpose, it may be reviewed to include participation of suitably fit and trained youth from other organizations too, for instance, senior NCC cadets, for operational and administrative purposes in NDRF. The upper age of 45 as fixed may continue. As India has one of the youngest populations in the world, this will also help in availability of additional employment opportunities for the youth in the Country”.

(Para no. 1)

7. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee note that all CAPFs have been requested to provide 108 women (Mahila) personnel for each NDRF Bn. within the strength of NDRF for rescue and relief operations especially for women victims. However, so far only 170 such personnel have joined the NDRF. The Committee appreciate the idea of participation of Mahila personnel in the NDRF. They would like to know as to how the number of 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Bns. has been worked out. The Committee are also of the view that sports women and senior NCC women 40 cadets, who are physically fit and fulfil NDRF pre-conditions, may be considered for induction so that presence of adequate Mahila personnel in each NDRF Bn. can be ensured within a stipulated time frame”.

(para no 13)

8. The Ministry of Home Affairs In their Action Taken Replies, has stated as under:

“NDRF is a 100% deputationist force and thus personnel from various CAPFs & Police Organizations are posted in NDRF on deputation for a period of seven years to maintain young profile in the Force, as the nature of protracted rescue duties require young & energetic personnel for various rescue operations. As regards the participation of trained youth from other organizations in NDRF especially form NCC, it is stated that deputation to NDRF is allowed from Government organizations only whereas NCC is a Voluntary Organization. As such it may not be feasible to take NCC cadets on deputation in NDRF. However, it is apt to mention here that NDRF have trained 8266 trainees from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) in disaster management and their database has been maintained in NDRF for utilizing their services whenever required during disaster and community awareness programmes”.

(Reply to Recommendation Para no. 1)

“No women Unit is authorized/formed in NDRF. However, all CAPFs have been requested to send nomination of 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Unit within the authorization of CTs (GD)/Male in NDRF for rescue and relief operations for women victims.

Each NDRF Battalion is having 06 Coys and each Coy consisting 03 teams, all CAPFs were requested to provide Mahila team to each Battalion of NDRF as per following composition against the authorization of 1149 posts in a NDRF Battalion so that services of Mahila contingent can be utilized in all Coys of NDRF:

Inspector (GD)/Sub Inspector (GD)	06 (01 per Coy)
Head Constable (GD)	18 (03 per Coy)

	Coy)
Constable (GD)	84 (12 per Coy)

(Reply to Recommendation Para no. 13)

9. The Committee had noted in their original report that the Government have decided to consider NDRF as 100% deputationist force by drawing personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) for a period of 7 years, with the objectives to keep it as a young force. However, the Committee were of the view that youth force, apart from being at the peak of physical agility, are dynamic in nature, as most skills and orientations are acquired in this age and hence recommended reviewing of the concept of '100% deputationist force', to include participation of suitably fit and trained youth from other organizations too, for instance senior NCC cadets (including senior women cadets) for operational and administrative purposes in NDRF. In their reply the Ministry have informed that deputation to NDRF is allowed from Government organisation only whereas NCC is a Voluntary Organisation and hence have submitted that it may not be feasible to take NCC Cadets on deputation in NDRF. The Committee feel that this refusal on technical grounds is not desirable. The emphasise of their recommendation was not on considering NCC cadets for NDRF on deputation basis, but to review the process to enable participation of suitably fit and trained youth from other organizations, including senior NCC cadets in NDRF, which will not only be in line with the concept of establishing 'Sashakt Bharat' but will also serve as an additional employment opportunity for the youth of the country. Applauding the role of NDRF not only in domestic disaster relief but also in international situations like the recent 'Operation Dost' in Turkiye for earthquake relief, the Committee foresees the need to strengthen the NDRF further. Thus, while reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee urge the Ministry to work out a mechanism so as to make full use of the senior cadets of NCC (including women cadets), as well as trained youth of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), who fulfill the essential pre-conditions, in NDRF. The Committee suggest that the Ministry should explore the possibility of enrolling the cadets/youth of these organisations on the lines of recruitment being done for Armed Forces under 'Agniveer Yojana'. The Committee also urge the Ministry to apprise them on the action taken thereon.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 2)

10. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee are happy to note that through NDRF, the Government have raised a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, stand-alone force capable of effectively

responding to all types of disasters and disaster like situations and to mitigate the effects of disasters. In this connection, they note that the National Policy on Disaster Management -2009 also mandates NDRF for Capacity Building of the community. The Force is relentlessly engaged in the “community capacity building and Public Awareness and preparedness programme of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) involving State Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire Services, NCC Cadets, NGOs, NYKS, Students, Volunteers and other stakeholders. Such capacity building programmes are conducted when the NDRF is not engaged in disaster response or relief works. The need of training is being worked out/ prioritized by the NDRF Units based on the vulnerability profile of the districts, as per the Vulnerability Atlas prepared by BMTPC. Accordingly, the syllabus and Training Programme is being prepared by the Board of Instructors in consultation with the experienced officials of field formations and duly approved by the Competent Authority. The Committee further note that in order to cater to the training needs of NDRF personnel and other stakeholders, the Government of India had approved on 27th September, 2018, the creation of a NDRF Academy by merging it with National Civil Defence College, Nagpur. Currently the Academy is being run at the erstwhile NCDC campus at Civil Lines, Nagpur. New infrastructure project for the Academy has been reportedly sanctioned at a total project cost of ₹ 125 Crore, possession of 153 acre of land has already been taken and the foundation stone for the project laid in 2020. Construction work has been in progress now. The Committee hope that a complete construction schedule, funds allocation and utilization details and date of completion of new Academy building project has been worked out and desire that it may be provided to them. They also desire the Government to ensure that the project is completed in the stipulated time and within cost schedules. The Committee are desirous of being apprised about its current status.”

11. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted as under:

“As per mandate, NDRF is continuously engaged in capacity building & awareness programs for community & other stakeholders concern.

NDRF Academy was established in 2018 after merging with erstwhile National Civil Defence College (NCDC) to draw synergy among various stakeholders involved in imparting training in the field of the Disaster Management.

The construction for Training infrastructure of NDRF Academy has already commenced and new academy premises is coming up over 153.278 acres of land at Nagpur, Maharashtra. Date of completion of New Academy building project is March, 2023. Complete construction schedule details are attached at **Annexure-A**.

Funds allocations and utilization details:-

Allocations:

Establishment of NDRF Academy at an estimated cost of ₹ 125.01 Crore, which includes:-

- Development of Infrastructure at cost of ₹85.16 Crore.
- Land at a cost of ₹18.61 Crore.
- Provision for specialized equipment, IT, Vehicles & Clothing at a cost of ₹13.05 Crore.
- Recurring Expenditure for 110 posts at a cost of ₹ 8.19 Crore.

Utilization :

As on 31.8.2022, ₹ 36.12 crore has been utilized.”

12. The Committee, taking note of the sanction for a new infrastructure project for construction of NDRF Academy at Nagpur at a total cost of ₹ 125 crore, had desired that the complete construction schedule and utilization details for the project be shared with them. The Committee has now observed from the completion schedule/plan furnished by the Ministry that the entire project was to be completed by the year 2022, whereas the new date for completion has been fixed as 31.03.2023. The Committee, therefore, would like to be informed of the status of completion of the project. The Committee had further observed earlier that utilization of funds were around 28 per cent as on 31st August, 2022, they hence, now desire to be apprised of the present status of utilization of funds. The Committee also hope that the project has not endured any cost overruns, over and above ₹125 crore.

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 5)

13. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee note that infrastructure development at 11 Bns, 10 team locations and NDRF Academy has been approved at a total estimated cost of ₹ 1272.26 crore. The infrastructure development, however, reportedly got delayed due to several reasons like time taken for land allotment/acquisition and clearance procedures by the local bodies, other local issues, Covid-19 pandemic impact and in case of Battalions, at Assam and Krishna, due to change of land by the State Government. Nonetheless, now the infrastructure at six Bn locations viz. Kolkata, Mundali, Arakkonam, Pune, Vadodara and Krishna and six team locations at Siliguri, Kolkata, Dwarka, Vishakhapatnam, Bengaluru and Balasore have been completed. Other Bns. at Ludhiana, Ghaziabad and Patna and team locations at Dehradun, Kishangarh and Supaul are reportedly near completion and will be completed by 2021-22. The Committee hope that no major cost overruns were experienced due to the delay and would like to be apprised of the latest

position of infrastructure projects at the action taken stage. They further desire that the facilities completed must be put to maximum use by the Battalions. However, few cases need attention. In one case at Guwahati, the Committee were informed that the land allocated for 1Bn. falls under eco-sensitive zone and, if alternative land is provided by the State Government, the work will be completed by 2024. The Committee are surprised to note as to how the Ministry has committed to complete the work by March 2024, when there is no alternative land made available by the State Government presently. Similarly, for RRC/Team location at Gandhinagar 06 Bn., while approval for selection of a PSU for the same is pending with MHA, the date of completion has already been fixed for 31.03.2023. The Committee hence desire to know status of both these projects, and in case of their non-completion, suggest that before finalising the date of completion of infrastructure work of above Bns., the NDRF may take up the matter at the highest level of the Assam Government and the MHA too for early resolution first and then finalise a realistic date for their completion. The outcome of these efforts may be appraised at the action taken stage. With regard to RRC/Team locations in 10 cities, the Committee were informed about likely completion in 7 places by 31.3.2022. They desire to be apprised of the progress thereof too.”

14. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted as under:

“After reviewing the progress of the work, the Ministry of Home Affairs on 04.10.2021, in consultation with Ministry of Finance, has conveyed approval of the EFC for continuation of the on-going sub-schemes for the FY 2021-22 to 2025-26, without any cost overruns. Out of the 12 NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy Nagpur, construction work has been completed at 07 no. NDRF battalions i.e. 02 Bn. NDRF at Haringhata (WB), 3rd Bn. NDRF at Mundali, 4th Bn. NDRF at Arakkonam, 5th Bn. NDRF at Pune (MH), 6th Bn. NDRF at Vadodara (Gujarat), office buildings at 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad (UP), 10th Bn. NDRF at Krishna (AP). The work at remaining NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy, Nagpur is yet to be completed. Latest status of construction work at remaining locations is as under: -

- (i) 7th Bn. NDRF at Ludhiana - 87%.
- (ii) 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad - 51%.
- (iii) 9th Bn. NDRF at Patna - 64%.
- (iv) 12th Bn. NDRF at Hollongi (AP) - 17%.
- (v) NDRF Academy at Nagpur: - 38%. (Work will be completed by 31.03.2023).
- (vi) 1st Bn NDRF in the State of Assam: - The work could not be started due to land issue.

Out of the 10 no. approved team locations, work has been completed at 07 team locations i.e. Siliguri, Kolkata, Balasore, Kishangarh, Dwarka (New Delhi) Bangalore & Vishakhapatnam. Work is under progress at the following team locations: -

- (i) Dehradun under 8th Bn. NDRF-88%. (work will be completed in CFY).
- (ii) Supaul under 9th Bn. NDRF-58%. (work will be completed in CFY).
- (iii) Gandhinagar- Work has been started for which, MoU with agency has been signed recently on 12.04.2022.

1st Bn. NDRF in Assam (issue of allotment of land): - Construction work at 1st Bn. NDRF could not be started till date due to land issue. NDRF & Ministry of Home Affairs has vigorously pursuing the matter with State Govt. of Assam for early allotment of alternative land for NDRF Bn. in Guwahati. In this context, a meeting through VC was taken by Union Home Secretary on 04.02.2021 with the Chief Secretary, Assam. Accordingly, it was envisaged that if land is provided by the State Govt. then work would be completed by March 2024.

Meanwhile, the State Govt. had identified 02 alternate lands but the same were not found suitable. Thereafter, follow up meeting was again taken by the Additional Secretary, MHA on 06.07.2021 with the Officers of State Government of Assam to review the progress on land issue.

Thereafter, 75 Bigha (25 acres approx.) Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) land at Village- Majirgoun, Azara circle was identified by the State Govt., which was found suitable by NDRF. The State Govt. of Assam had accorded in principal approval for transfer of the said land to NDRF. But again, due to certain issues at local level, it was not fructified.

Again, Union Home Secretary *vide* DO Letter dated 28.10.2021 requested Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam to provide sufficient & suitable land at Guwahati for NDRF Bn.

Now, NDRF has identified a piece of Govt. Revenue land measuring 530 Bighas 2 Katha 5 lecha at **Sanapara Parbat** under **Hajo Circle** office, Kamrup (Rural). Accordingly, a case for allotment of above land with land details and coordinates has been sent to DC Kamrup (Rural) by NDRF on 12.07.2022. In response, the case has further been submitted by DC Kamrup (Rural) to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam. The case is under process. After the allotment of the land, the time line for completion of the battalion infrastructure will be revised, if needed.

Selection of PSU for construction work at team location Gandhinagar: - Earlier, during 2021, NDRF *vide* UO Note dated 04.03.2021 had requested MHA to award the subject work to M/s HSCL, after carrying out online bid formalities as per

GFR. But, due to infirmity in the tendering process, it was decided that the construction of infrastructure at team location Gandhinagar of 6th Bn. NDRF be re-tendered. Accordingly, the process of re-tendering was done, which has now been completed and accordingly, the work has been awarded to PSU namely C&DS, U.P. Jal Nigam, Noida. MoU has also been signed by NDRF with the PSU on 12.04.2022 and the work scheduled for completion by 30th April 2023.

15. The Committee had noted that the work for construction of infrastructure for NDRF Battalions located at Ludhiana, Ghaziabad and Patna, and team locations at Dehradun, Kishangarh and Supaul were scheduled for completion during FY 2021-22, and desired to be apprised of the latest position of these projects. While appreciating the progress of work with regard to these projects, as detailed by the Ministry in their Action Taken reply, the Committee hope that some works must have been completed in current financial year as stated without any cost overruns. The Committee would like to be informed, accordingly. The Committee had also noted that the Ministry have set dates for completion of infrastructure projects for the battalions located in Guwahati and Gandhinagar, inspite of the fact that no land had been allotted for Guwahati and work was still to be awarded for execution of the project in case of Gandhinagar. Thus, going forward, the Committee had suggested the NDRF to take up the matter at the highest level for early resolution of issues and then finalise a realistic date for completion of the projects. The Committee are now happy to note from the reply of the Ministry that land has been identified in Guwahati and that the administrative process for allotment is underway. The Committee, also note that work has been awarded for execution of the battalion infrastructure in Gandhinagar, which is scheduled for completion by 30th April, 2023. The Committee expect the Ministry to complete these projects in a time bound manner. The Committee desire to be apprised of the details of budget allocated and the timelines/revised timelines fixed for completion of the two projects. The Committee, further note with satisfaction, from the Action Taken Replies, that out of 10 Team locations, work has been completed at 07 locations. The Committee, would also like to be apprised of the progress/completion of work in respect of the remaining 03 Team locations.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 8)

16. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee note that to deal an emergency/disaster, the Government have introduced ‘Aapda Mitra Scheme’. In the first phase of the scheme, 18 to 40 years old persons have been provided training and more than 7000 persons have since been

trained. In the second phase, 350 disaster prone districts have been identified and for each such district, the Government have proposed to train 1 lakh persons in the three year period of 2020-2023 with a total financial outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore. The Committee are happy to note that these initiatives have been started in the Country as a precautionary measure to deal with disasters. However, the Committee are of the view that while the Government has been conducting mock drills, they should also incorporate proper disaster evacuation training at School/Colleges levels to prepare a large number of young persons, in line with the practice followed in countries like Japan, Israel etc. The Government should also consider giving certificates/awards to trained youth according to their level of training viz. Level 1, Level 2, etc. The Committee also note that Aapda Mitra Scheme has to be implemented in 3 years with an outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore, which will be completed this year. They, therefore, hope that the Government will utilise the Outlay in the stipulated time frame and complete the target.”

17. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted as under:

“It is to state that under the Pilot Scheme of Aapda Mitra, a total number of 5513 volunteers were trained against the target of 6,000 volunteers. Under the ongoing Up-scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme, nearly 14,710 volunteers against the target of 1 lakh have been trained, so far.

Further, it is to state that Ministry of Education and NDMA are jointly monitoring implementation of National Disaster Management Guidelines on Policy in all Schools through a Joint Monitoring Committee. There are 10 prime focus areas including conduct of annual Mock Drills, and conduct of regular training on school safety and disaster preparedness, which are being undertaken by Schools.

Under the Up-scaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme, there is a provision for providing certificate / I-Card to each trained volunteer.

All efforts are being made for timely & full utilization of the funds earmarked under the project.

18. The Committee had noted that the Government have introduced the ‘Aapda Mitra Scheme’ to train one lakh volunteers to deal an emergency/disaster, during the three year period of 2020-2023 with a total financial outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore and hoped that the Government will utilise the outlay in the stipulated time frame and complete the target. The Committee had further urged the Government to incorporate proper disaster evacuation training at school/college level, to prepare a large number of young people, in line with the practice followed in countries like Japan, Israel etc. and to consider providing of certificates/awards to trained youths. The Committee are now happy to note from the reply furnished by the

Ministry that the Ministry of Education and NDMA are jointly monitoring the conduct of annual Mock Drills, and conduct of regular training on school safety and disaster preparedness in all schools. The Committee also note with satisfaction the provision made under the Up-scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme to provide certificate/I-card to each trained volunteers, in line with their recommendation. As the implementation of the Up-scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme has to be completed by the end of this financial year, the Committee desire to be informed of the present status of implementation of the Scheme, including the total number of volunteers trained Statewise and the extent of utilization of funds earmarked for the scheme.

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 9)

19. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee note that the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been set up as planning, coordinating and implementing bodies for disaster management and to take all measures in the districts, as per the guidelines laid down by National and State Authorities. DDMAs have been constituted in all the districts. The Committee further note that so far 7000 community volunteers in 30 most flood prone Districts of 25 States have been trained under ‘Aapda Mitra Scheme’ which is intended to be increased to 1 lakh and feel that such efforts need to continue to cover other disaster prone areas in Hill districts too where landslides, cloudbursts, earthquakes etc. are increasingly being experienced. The Committee also note that Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 mandates that every district of a State shall prepare their Disaster Management Plan (DMP). This includes the areas in the district vulnerable to different form of disasters and DMP of a district has to be drawn up by the State Disaster Management Authority. So far out of 732 districts in the Country, 673 districts have drawn their DMP. Guidelines prepared by NDMA for management of specific disasters are to be taken into account by the concerned 37 authorities while preparing their DMP. The Committee desire that the DMPs of remaining 59 districts also need to be prepared and approved expeditiously in a time bound manner. They may be apprised of the progress in this regard. The Committee are happy to note that NDMA brings awareness of disasters through electronic and print media. However, they are of the view that to strengthen States’ capacities in disaster education, regular mock drills may be conducted and physical camps set up in disaster prone districts of the Country with the help of retired CAPF personnel, suitably trained senior NCC Cadets residing in the district, so that trained citizens can act as first responders during the time of any disaster. The Committee further opine that BSF and SSB should also provide assistance/support to NDRF/SDRF in case a need is felt during any disaster. The Committee desire the Ministry to consider these measures and apprise them of action taken on the same.”

20. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted as under:

“(a). **Aapda Mitra**: It is to state that under the Pilot Scheme of Aapda Mitra, a total number of 5513 volunteers were trained against the target of 6,000 volunteers. Under the ongoing Up-scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme, nearly 14710 volunteers against the targets of 1 lakh have been trained, so far. Further it is clarified that the Up-scaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme is being implemented in 350 districts of India including hilly areas. These districts have been identified based on their proneness to landslide, earthquakes, floods and cyclones.

(b). **Disaster Management Plan** : The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. The States where Disaster Management Plan (DMP) of remaining 59 districts are yet to be prepared, shall be requested to prepare their DMP expeditiously taking into account, inter alia, guidelines for management of specific disasters prepared by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

(c). **Distt. Level Mock Exercises** : On 30th June 2020, the Hon’ble Union Home Minister, carried out a review of the country’s disaster management activities and thereafter directed that mock exercises should be conducted in each district of the country at least once in every three years for the following purposes :

(a) To ensure that every district can constitute field trained teams for disaster response.

(b) To test the efficacy of every district’s disaster management plans and its preparedness component.

(c) To bring in greater cohesion and coordination amongst, and between, different stakeholder.

On the day of a district’s mock exercise, the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) of the concerned district and of the State/UT shall also visit schools in their jurisdiction and conduct mock drills in 10 to 20 pre- identified schools in the district.

In accordance with the directions, the NDRF has been tasked with conducting mock exercises at the district level, This training is being implemented in phases, as indicated below :

Phase	FY	Districts covered
Phase-I	2020-21	98
Phase-II	2021-22	239

Phase-III	2022-23	Annual Calendar of Distt Level MEs covering 298 Districts has been circulated to all States / UTs.
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As per Section 22(2) (p) & 30 (2) (xxviii) DM Act 2005, State / District Authorities are responsible to carry out Disaster management drills periodically. However, NDMA facilitates States / UTs in conduct of State/UT/ Multi State Level Mock Exercises on the disaster scenario based on the vulnerability profile of the State/UT with the active participation of State / UT authorities, distt Administrations, line Department, community volunteers and Central Agencies like EW Agencies, Armed Forces, CAPFs and NDRF. During the year 2021-22, NDMA coordinated and conducted 21 such online Table Top Exercises (TTEEx) including 02 physical Mock Exercises.

The contents of recommendation under this para have been noted. However, it is submitted that all CAPFs, including BSF and SSB, are already providing immediate response in case of any disaster as per the need and also provides all necessary supports/assistance to the NDRF Bns/Teams as and when required by them. It may also be submitted that SSB has operationalized 18 Rescue & Relief Team (RRTs) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir to carry out rescue and relief operations during disaster situations in the area of operation of SSB. Further, SSB is carrying out rescue & relief operations in border areas in the AoR of SSB. Further, Regional Response Centres for responding to disasters have also been set up by ITBP.

The Government of India is committed to provide all supports and make available all the necessary resources required for providing response, relief and rescue in case of any disaster.”

21. The Committee had observed that out of 732 districts in the country, 673 districts have prepared their Disaster Management Plan (DMP), as mandated by Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and hence desired that the DMP of remaining 59 districts also be prepared and approved expeditiously, in a time bound manner. In their reply, the Ministry has informed that the States where DMP of remaining 59 districts are yet to be prepared, shall be requested to prepare their DMP expeditiously. The reply is however silent about whether the remaining districts have completed preparation of their DMP. It is more than 08 months now since the 13th Report of the Committee was presented to Parliament. It appears that the concerned districts have not taken any concrete steps to complete their DMPs. Matters relating disaster management are always to be a top priority for the administrations considering the ill-impact of climate change

and demographic pressures, and therefore, the Committee, again urge that the DMP of the concerned 59 districts should be completed without further delay and apprised them accordingly.

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 10)

22. In their original recommendation, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Moto of National Disaster Response Force is “Saving Lives and Beyond”. They do not differentiate whether there is human life or animal life. If any animal is also trapped in some place, then they rescue it. Rescue of wild animals during forest fires is a case in point here. In this connection, the Committee note that the NDRF has been working with the Forest Department to deal with forest fire. However, in so far as inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters to be tackled by the NDRF is concerned, the matter is reportedly under consultation with stakeholders concerned. Forest fire is a growing threat globally now. The incidents of forests fires not only damage the forest resources but also damage the biodiversity, cause climate change, adversely impact Tribal livelihood and lead to severe distress among flora and fauna of forests. In view of the increase of forest fire incidents in the recent past in the country, the Committee feel that the decision for inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters by NDRF needs to be taken expeditiously. Due to the limited capacity of Forest Department to fight huge forest fires, it is high time that the same is tackled by a highly trained force on disasters. The Committee desire to be apprised of any progress on this matter.”

23. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted as under:

“The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted an Expert Committee under Chairmanship of Member (Ops), NDMA to delineate the roles and responsibilities of NDRF for management of forest fire. MoEF&CC, NDRF, DG FS, CD & HG, Forest Survey of India (FSI), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & Forest Research Institute were also nominated as members of Expert Committee. After examination of the Committee report, it has been decided that existing 03 NDRF teams at 3 NDRF locations will be trained and equipped i.e. 1 team in Uttarakhand, 1 team in Guwahati and 1 team in Andhra Pradesh, to deal with the forest fire”.

24. The Committee, while observing that in the recent past incidents of forest fire have increased, had urged upon the Government to expeditiously take a decision regarding inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters by NDRF, as Forest Departments are ill-equipped and has limited capacity to fight huge forest fires. The Committee are happy to note from the reply of the Ministry, that 03 NDRF teams- 01 team each in Uttarakhand, Guwahati and Andhra Pradesh, would be trained and equipped to deal with forest fire. The Committee, hope that the

Ministry would take further necessary steps to gradually increase the number of teams equipped to deal with forest fires and ensure their strategic presence in various parts of the country, so that those specialized teams could respond to any fire emergency in a forest, at short notice.

Chapter – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 3)

The Committee note that NDRF is largely satisfied with the Government fiscal support to them in the last three years, which has been ₹ 1101.41 crore, 1140.74 crore and 1281.44 crore during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively of which funds for OB, i.e. infrastructure, are very important. An adequate infrastructure is the sine qua non of every Battalion and the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs, during their evidence, have assured the Committee that 80-90 percent work of infrastructure will be completed by the end of this Financial Year and remaining will be completed by the middle of next Financial Year. However, an analysis of the Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual expenditures since 2016-17 shows that the Capital budget provision in BE and RE is less than 50% of the Revenue Budget Estimates and actual expenditure in the past. The Committee have also observed the fact that over the years the actual expenditure in Capital Sector has largely been showing a declining trend, which may hamper the plan of building infrastructure for NDRF Battalions. The Committee, therefore, would like the Ministry to clarify as to how they plan to complete all infrastructure work for NDRF Battalions with a decrease in funds allocated for Capital assets. They recommend that immediate remedial measures may be undertaken to address fund reduction/lapse in Capital Sector in consultation with the Ministry of Finance lest the target dates for completion of the project would need extensions, leading to cost overruns as well as an adverse impact on the capacity augmentation of NDRF Battalions.

Reply of the Government

The current state of infrastructure work at different location of NDRF as appraised by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on dated 04.10.2021, is as under: -

- Out of the 12 NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy Nagpur; construction work has been completed at 07 no. NDRF battalions [*i.e. 02 Bn. NDRF at Haringhata (West Bengal), 3rd Bn. NDRF at Mundali, 4th Bn. NDRF at Arakkonam, 5th Bn. NDRF at Pune (MH), 6th Bn. NDRF at Vadodara (Gujarat), office buildings at 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad (UP), 10th Bn. NDRF at Krishna (AP)*]. At remaining NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy, Nagpur work is in progress. Latest status of construction work at remaining locations are as under: -

- (i) 7th Bn. NDRF at Ludhiana-87% work completed.
- (ii) 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad-51% work completed.
- (iii) 9th Bn. NDRF at Patna-64% work completed.
- (iv) 12th Bn. NDRF at Hollongi (AP)- 17% work completed.

- (v) NDRF Academy at Nagpur: -31% work completed.
 (vi) 1st Bn NDRF in the State of Assam: - Work yet to be started due to land issue.

- Regarding creation of infrastructure for 10 no. team locations as approved in EFC, work has been completed at 07 team locations [*i.e. Siliguri, Kolkata, Balasore, Kishangarh, Dwarka (New Delhi) Bangalore & Vishakhapatnam*]. Work is under progress at team location Dehradun (88%), Supaul (58%) & will be completed in CFY 2022-23. Work at team location Gandhinagar has been awarded to C&DS, U.P. Jal Nigam, Noida, for which, MoU with agency has been signed on 12.04.2022.

- Detail of actual budget expenditure w.r.t. approved BE/RE incurred since 2016-17 is as under-

Year	BE	RE	Actual exp.	% Utilization
2016-17	163.08	130	130	100%
2017-18	180	183.96	183.77	99.90%
2018-19	190	158	157.95	99.97%
2019-20	95	95	94.51	99.48%
2020-21	72	92	92.03	100%
2021-22	72	127.96	127.64	99.75%

The allocation of funds to NDRF for capital expenditure has been utilised 100%.

With the aforesaid allocations during the preceding years the requirement of funds are met and there is no shortfall noticed in this regard. It may be submitted that at certain places, the State Government provided the land free of cost for NDRF and thereby the requirement of funds for capital outlay was reduced substantially. Further, the Government is committed to provide all the funds required for the capital outlay of NDRF.

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 4)

The Committee further observe that though Government have been allocating sufficient funds, an analysis of the Budget Estimates and Actual Expenditures since 2016-17 depicts that the budget provision for training of NDRF personnel at domestic and international level has remained rather low, i.e. between ₹1 to 2 crore and even its utilization has not been 100%, as it has mainly remained in the range of 50% to 80%. The Committee are of the view that adequate measures should be introduced for State-of-the-art training of NDRF personnel and also for providing basic, advance and additional courses free of cost by NDRF to SDRF personnel. Since disasters may occur at any time, a regular mechanism should be evolved to ensure fitness and

preparedness of NDRF/SDRF personnel throughout the year. This calls for enhanced BE for training as well as 100% utilization of the same. There is, thus, a need to review the budget provision under the Heads of Account like OAE and FTE, which have shown less allocation and its utilisation during the last five years. To address the same, the Committee strongly recommend that the factors responsible for less utilisation may be identified and rectified immediately. They also desire that the Ministry should prepare adequate advance plans for training of NDRF personnel further and project better budgetary requirements before Ministry of Finance at the Supplementary Grant/next year's BE stage.

Reply of the Government

NDRF personnel undergo various Advance Disaster Management courses from other institutes and organization to enhance their capabilities so that their expertise may be utilized in a better manner during Rescue operations & others. Further, NDRF Academy, Nagpur is functioning since 2018 as a state of art training centre for NDRF, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and other stakeholders, which are involved in Disaster Management. NDRF provides training in various courses to SDRF where only the charges of expendable items like PPE and stationary items are being charged from SDRF. No separate charges for training are being taken from SDRF.

To improve the competence of NDRF for serving the country in a better manner, NDRF started an exercise of conducting a Training Need Analysis (TNA) for its personnel. Accordingly, Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak, consented to help NDRF in conducting TNA .

However, the recommendation of the Committee has been noted for projecting better requirement of funds for training in future.

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 6)

The Committee appreciate that the Government have been assessing the strength of NDRF from time to time since its inception, with the result that the strength of the Force has increased from 8 Bns in 2006 to 10 Bns in 2010 and 12 Bns in 2015. However, as it was felt to further increase the strength, the Government have decided to raise 4 new Bns of NDRF and boost the availability of sufficient manpower to meet the requirement of prompt response during any disaster situation, with all operational and administrative power vested in the Director-General, NDRF. The Committee also note that the Ministry, in its written reply, have submitted that out of new Bns being raised, the process of raising 1 Bn. from BSF had started but out of 139 personnel selected for the same, only 103 could join and due to acute shortage of manpower in BSF, 36 personnel will be joining after March, 2022. In this connection, the Committee note that out of total 16 Bns. of NDRF, only 3 Bn. have been taken from BSF. The Committee feel that out of

all forces, perhaps, BSF is the only force which faces difficulty to provide manpower to NDRF, despite the fact that since 2006, Government have sanctioned 171 new Battalions in various CAPFs, which include 35 Bns. in the BSF, a rather large number. However, if these new battalions are in place now, the Committee are surprised at BSF expressing acute shortage of 36 persons for deputing to NDRF. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should look into the reasons for BSF not providing requisite personnel to NDRF and ensure a mechanism for regular/periodic assessment of requirement of NDRF personnel for availability of manpower sufficient to meet the demand due to growing number of natural and manmade disasters in the Country.

Reply of the Government

The Government of India has sanctioned raising of 04 new Bns. from CAPFs to NDRF i.e. 02 Bns from ITBP, 01 Bn each from Assam Rifles and BSF. The raising of these Bns. has been monitored in the Ministry of Home Affairs at highest level. The shortage of manpower deployment for new Bn. by BSF was discussed in the meeting on 23.11.2021 under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary and attended by DG, BSF and DG, NDRF. Thereafter, the necessary manpower from BSF was also deployed in NDRF for new Bn. Status of these Bns are as under :-

- (i) 01 Bn from Assam Rifles and 02 Bns from ITBP have been inducted in NDRF and named as 13th, 14th & 15th Bns NDRF respectively. These Battalions are now operational.
- (ii) 01 Bn from BSF named as 16th Bn NDRF has been raised. The Bn. is undergoing DM training. After the DM training, this Bn. will also be operational.

Ministry of Home Affairs regularly monitors the availability of manpower in NDRF Bns. at various levels and as soon as any shortfall is noticed, the same is rectified immediately.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 7)

The Committee note that where forecast/early warning of floods, cyclones, tsunamis etc. is available, the NDRF positions its teams, in consultation with respective State. The pre-positioning is made as a measure of pro-active response to deal with the impending disaster. After assessment of the situation, if potentially unmanageable by the State, UT and in case additional teams are required by the State, adequate additional NDRF teams are deployed even by airlifting from other Battalion locations. It is noteworthy that the Central Government does not charge any amount from States/UTs for deployment of NDRF. The Indian Air Force and Indian Railways stately have been assisting NDRF in mobilisation of force to the disasters. The Committee

appreciate that NDRF has been getting support of Indian Air Force and Indian Railways for mobilisation of Force and hope that the SOP for ensuring better coordination and communication among NDRF Air Force, Railways and other agencies has been established. They further note that for unforeseen disasters, mock drills, enhancement of vehicles for swift movement, review of communication equipment, training of SDRF Personnel on special request etc. has been undertaken by NDRF. The Committee hope that the preparedness will be continued since it is the best step to manage a disaster and minimize the damage to life and property.

Reply of the Government

The observations of the Committee have been noted. The Government of India with its continuous efforts have significantly improved its preparedness to deal with natural calamities. The Government of India & NDRF remain in regular touch with all the State/UT concerned & deployment by NDRF is done in consultation with the respective State/Distt. Authorities as per requirement.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 8)

The Committee note that to deal an emergency/disaster, the Government have introduced 'Aapda Mitra Scheme'. In the first phase of the scheme, 18 to 40 years old persons have been provided training and more than 7000 persons have since been trained. In the second phase, 350 disaster prone districts have been identified and for each such district, the Government have proposed to train 1 lakh persons in the three year period of 2020-2023 with a total financial outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore. The Committee are happy to note that these initiatives have been started in the Country as a precautionary measure to deal with disasters. However, the Committee are of the view that while the Government has been conducting mock drills, they should also incorporate proper disaster evacuation training at School/Colleges levels to prepare a large number of young persons, in line with the practice followed in countries like Japan, Israel etc. The Government should also consider giving certificates/awards to trained youth according to their level of training viz. Level 1, Level 2, etc. The Committee also note that Aapda Mitra Scheme has to be implemented in 3 years with an outlay of ₹ 369.41 crore, which will be completed this year. They, therefore, hope that the Government will utilise the Outlay in the stipulated time frame and complete the target.

Reply of the Government

It is to state that under the Pilot Scheme of Aapda Mitra, a total number of 5513 volunteers were trained against the target of 6,000 volunteers. Under the ongoing Up-

scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme, nearly 14,710 volunteers against the target of 1 lakh have been trained, so far.

Further, it is to state that Ministry of Education and NDMA are jointly monitoring implementation of National Disaster Management Guidelines on Policy in all Schools through a Joint Monitoring Committee. There are 10 prime focus areas including conduct of annual Mock Drills, and conduct of regular training on school safety and disaster preparedness, which are being undertaken by Schools.

Under the Up-scaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme, there is a provision for providing certificate / I-Card to each trained volunteer.

All efforts are being made for timely & full utilization of the funds earmarked under the project.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 18 of Chapter I)

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 10)

The Moto of National Disaster Response Force is "Saving Lives and Beyond". They do not differentiate whether there is human life or animal life. If any animal is also trapped in some place, then they rescue it. Rescue of wild animals during forest fires is a case in point here. In this connection, the Committee note that the NDRF has been working with the Forest Department to deal with forest fire. However, in so far as inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters to be tackled by the NDRF is concerned, the matter is reportedly under consultation with stakeholders concerned. Forest fire is a growing threat globally now. The incidents of forests fires not only damage the forest resources but also damage the biodiversity, cause climate change, adversely impact Tribal livelihood and lead to severe distress among flora and fauna of forests. In view of the increase of forest fire incidents in the recent past in the country, the Committee feel that the decision for inclusion of forest fire in the list of disasters by NDRF needs to be taken expeditiously. Due to the limited capacity of Forest Department to fight huge forest fires, it is high time that the same is tackled by a highly trained force on disasters. The Committee desire to be apprised of any progress on this matter.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted an Expert Committee under Chairmanship of Member (Ops), NDMA to delineate the roles and responsibilities of NDRF for management of forest fire. MoEF&CC, NDRF, DG FS, CD & HG, Forest Survey of

India (FSI), Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) & Forest Research Institute were also nominated as members of Expert Committee. After examination of the Committee report, it has been decided that existing 03 NDRF teams at 3 NDRF locations will be trained and equipped i.e. 1 team in Uttarakhand, 1 team in Guwahati and 1 team in Andhra Pradesh, to deal with the forest fire.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 24 of Chapter I)

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 11)

The Regional Response Centres (RRCs) of CAPFs were created based on the vulnerability profile of the Country to provide immediate response during disasters and in due course, most of these RRCs were handed over to NDRF. Usually, 10,000 sq. ft. (approx.) built up area or 05 acres land is required for a RRC. At present there are 28 RRCs in various States/UTs. Only 07 States/ UTs viz. Goa, Meghalaya, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry do not have any NDRF Bn/ RRC. However, these States/ UTs are stated to be covered by nearby NDRF Battalion/ RRC location. The Committee are of the opinion that keeping in view the increasing incidents of disasters, the Government may consider creation of Regional Response Centre in these States/UTs, most of which are coastal and thus prone to disasters like tsunamis, oil spills etc. In this connection, the Committee would like to draw attention to the Konkan Region of Maharashtra also, which is disaster prone yet is in need of small helicopters to be fully equipped to handle the same. The Committee are also of the strong opinion that no State is safe from disasters hence all States should be advised to facilitate their SDRFs expeditiously. The Committee desire to know any progress on the same.

Reply of the Government

The NDRF Bns. and their team locations/RRCs are stationed based on the vulnerability profile of the country. Further, The States are also required to augment their resources to handle the disasters by creating their SDRFs in line with NDRF. The Ministry of Home Affairs has from time to time requesting the State Government and Union Territory Administration to raise their SDRF. As per the information received from the States, till date 29 States/UTs have already raised their SDRF.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 12)

The Committee note that under the National Emergency Communication Plan Phase-II, the review of communication equipment of NDRF Battalions was carried out in the year 2011 and accordingly, requisite equipment were provided to ensure fail-safe communication between field units with their headquarters for a period of 5 years w.e.f. 31 May, 2011 and the same was first extended upto 31 March, 2018 and further extended upto 31 March, 2020. The Committee feel that the prevailing practice for review of communication equipment of NDRF needs attention particularly when the communication technology has been taking rapid strides. They, therefore, desire that the review of communication equipment may be conducted in a shorter period now. The Committee also note that the proposal to review the communication equipment of NDRF has already been sent for financial concurrence after receiving the advice of NDMA. The Committee therefore, desire the Government to pursue the proposal and obtain financial concurrence expeditiously without further delay.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the proposal for review of communication equipment has already been approved by Ministry of Home Affairs on 31st January, 2022.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 14)

The Committee note that to enhance the operational efficiency, additional equipment (Cutting tools) has been authorized to NDRF and also the authorization of Deep Diving equipment has also been revised. In 2017, to enable swift movement of NDRF teams from NDRF Battalion the number of vehicles was enhanced from 80 to 104 per Battalion. The Committee, when examine the details of authorized and existing number of various Disaster response equipment under different categories, are surprised to note that there has been a huge gap in large number of such items like Brick Hammer, chipping Hammer Bits pointed, Chipping Hammer Bits Flat, Multi para monitor, Oxygen Concentrator, Pulse Oxymeter and Nebuliser. They also find that about 10 items, which are authorised to NDRF, does not form part of it. In addition to this, the Committee also find that there has been a huge shortage of almost all the items authorised to NDRF. The Committee desire the Ministry to understand the gravity of adverse impact of such a big shortage of equipment on disaster relief management in the past and future too. The Committee desire to know the mechanism as to how authorisation of equipment is undertaken and their numbers analysed and finalised. The Committee strongly recommend that shortage of equipment under different categories may be reviewed in a time bound manner and the remaining equipment procured without further delay.

Reply of the Government

The mechanism for authorisation of equipments includes that, the NDRF, based on their need, firstly constitute a Board of Officers to review the requirement and specification. Thereafter, NDRF submit the proposal to Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). MHA, after consultation with other organisations/stakeholders, authorised the equipments to NDRF.

The procurement of equipment as per authorisation is done by NDRF and maintains the requisite inventory. Ministry of Home Affairs allocate sufficient fund as projected by NDRF for procurement of equipments. Further, procurement of equipments to replenish the shortage is a continuous and ongoing process. It may be submitted here that the high gap seen in the inventory is due to inclusion of equipments of 4 new Bns being raised. As the Bn were under the raising status, the shortfall in the inventory was visible. It may be submitted that equipments of 4 new Bn out of 16 Bn, constitute 25% of the total inventory.

As regards the observation in respect of Deep Diving Suit, it is submitted that review of specifications is being finalized shortly. Accordingly, procurement process will be initiated. Brick Hammer, Chipping Hammer Bits Pointed & Flat, Oxygen Concentrator, Pulse Oxy Meter and Nebulizer are low value items and the same are being procured within the financial competency of Unit Commandant. Further, Multi Para Monitor is authorized @ 2 Nos. for each Battalion, and 25 are held by 12 Bn of NDRF. There is a shortage of only 08 Nos. for new raised battalions which are in the procurement plan in current financial year 2022-23.

During the last financial year 2020-21, Cutting Tools have been procured for newly raised NDRF Bns. Further, it is also intimated that Cutting Tools are available in sufficient quantity in NDRF Bn. However, in case of any deficiency arising due to condemnation/requirement from Bns, the same will be procured in the current financial year 2022-23.

Apart from the above, the observation of the Committee has been noted and the progress on procurement of equipment of NDRF is monitored scrupulously.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 15)

The Committee, while applauding the commendable job carried out by NDRF in rescuing the people and animals during disasters in the country and abroad, recommend that there should be a mechanism for post disaster review to identify any shortcomings and further strengthen improve their preparedness. Lessons learnt from past disasters and post disaster should apply on various fields such as (a) need for

better logistics and supply chain management (including procurement, warehousing, transportation and communication) (b) training of personnel as reserve manpower to meet surges in demand (c) clear delineation of responsibilities and robust communication lines (d) coordination of partner agencies, local government, State Government (e) adequate compensation for the victims etc. With passage of time, the aim of NDRF should not only be confined to rescue operations, but also overall National Disaster Risk Reduction. The thematic areas should be (i) prevention and mitigation (ii) preparedness (iii) response (iv) recovery and rehabilitation. The Committee would like to believe that a dialogue on the same has already started, based on the NDRF experience so far. Hence, they desire to be apprised of the future vision of the Ministry with regard to disaster prevention and preparedness thereof, particularly in the present scenario of impending disasters due to adverse climatic events/armed conflicts and similar such disasters which are increasing in their intensity all over the world now.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. There is an integral system of debriefing after every major incident. Shortcomings, lessons learnt, initiatives undertaken are discussed at length. Based on the discussion, measures to improve the operational efficiency in future are undertaken in NDRF for better response.

Further, it is submitted that the primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing necessary logistics and financial support in cases of natural disasters of severe nature and beyond the coping capacity of the States.

Besides, a well established scheme of financing the disasters response is in place since long in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Allocations to these funds are being done as per recommendations of successive Finance Commissions.

Pursuant to the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission (FC), the Central Government has significantly enhanced the allocation for all the States under SDRF i.e. from Rs. 61220.00 crore for the period 2015-2020 to Rs.128122 crore during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. In addition, as per recommendations of 15th FC, the concept of Mitigation Fund has been introduced in the financing mechanism of disaster management. The National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) has been created at national level and many States have set up and remaining States are in the process of setting-up of State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF). These mitigation funds are to be used for undertaking mitigation activities involving local level and community based intervention which reduce the risks and promote environment friendly settlements and livelihood practices. Further, based on the recommendation of 15th Finance Commission, the Government has allocated an amount of Rs. 32031.00 crore for all

states under SDMF and Rs. 13693.00 crore under NDMF for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Further, the 15th Finance Commission has recommended the total State allocation under a new nomenclature viz State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF). The SDRMF has been divided into State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF), which will together address the full cycle of disaster management needs - response and relief, recovery and reconstruction, preparedness and capacity-building, and mitigation. Details of the allocated funds under SDRF/ SDMF for 2021-2026 are as under:-

- **SDRMF:-** Rs. 1,60,153 crore –
 - ✓ SDRF (80%): Rs. 1,28,122 crore;
 - ✓ SDMF(20%): Rs. 32,031 crore.

▪ **SDRF to be divided in 3 sub windows**

- i. Response and Relief (40%) - Rs. 64,061 crore
- ii. Recovery and Reconstruction (30%) - Rs.48,046 crore
- iii. Preparedness & Capacity Building (10%) - Rs. 16,015 crore

Further, it is mentioned that there are institutional mechanisms at the National, State & district level in the country to develop appropriate preparedness and prompt response mechanism for effective management of natural disasters. Central Government has established a robust early warning system and has significantly enhanced the accuracy of weather forecasts. Forecasting agencies are continuing their efforts for the improvement of warning and dissemination systems vigorously. Mock exercises and community awareness programmes are being regularly conducted to educate people/ farmers at the time of natural calamities.

The measures taken by the Central and State Governments have significantly improved the disaster management practices, preparedness, prevention and response mechanism, resulting in significant reduction in casualties during the natural calamities in the country. Further, strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing and evolving process of governance.

CHAPTER III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies

NIL

CHAPTER IV

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 1)

Natural and man-made disasters have had their sad history in India. With a worrying climate change in the last few decades, the Country has seen many disasters like floods in various States like Bihar, Kashmir and Uttarakhand and in cities like Mumbai and Chennai, Indian Ocean Tsunami, Gujarat Earthquake, Odisha super cyclone etc. Hence, the need for a dedicated force like NDRF was felt and consequently the same has been raised by the Government. The Committee note the achievements of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in dealing with various types of disasters in the Country since its inception in 2006. It, quite appreciably, has not only rescued and evacuated innumerable human lives but also rescued livestock during their operations, with professional expertise and requisite dedication so far. The Committee have been made to understand that during the time of the setting up of NDRF, there were many challenges before the Government and hence, it was decided to consider NDRF as 100% deputationist force, drawing personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for a period of 7 years, with the objective to keep it as a young force. Besides, being at the peak of physical agility, Youth force is dynamic in nature as most skills and orientations are acquired in this age. The Committee, hence, recommend that while the concept of 100% deputationist force is apt for the purpose, it may be reviewed to include participation of suitably fit and trained youth from other organizations too, for instance, senior NCC cadets, for operational and administrative purposes in NDRF. The upper age of 45 as fixed may continue. As India has one of the youngest populations in the world, this will also help in availability of additional employment opportunities for the youth in the Country.

Reply of the Government

NDRF is a 100% deputationist force and thus personnel from various CAPFs & Police Organizations are posted in NDRF on deputation for a period of seven years to maintain young profile in the Force, as the nature of protracted rescue duties require young & energetic personnel for various rescue operations. As regards the participation of trained youth from other organizations in NDRF especially from NCC, it is stated that deputation to NDRF is allowed from Government organizations only whereas NCC is a Voluntary Organization. As such it may not be feasible to take NCC cadets on deputation in NDRF. However, it is apt to mention here that NDRF have trained 8266 trainees from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) in disaster management and their

database has been maintained in NDRF for utilizing their services whenever required during disaster and community awareness programmes.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 9 of Chapter I)

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 13)

The Committee note that all CAPFs have been requested to provide 108 women (Mahila) personnel for each NDRF Bn. within the strength of NDRF for rescue and relief operations especially for women victims. However, so far only 170 such personnel have joined the NDRF. The Committee appreciate the idea of participation of Mahila personnel in the NDRF. They would like to know as to how the number of 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Bns. has been worked out. The Committee are also of the view that sports women and senior NCC women 40 cadets, who are physically fit and fulfil NDRF pre-conditions, may be considered for induction so that presence of adequate Mahila personnel in each NDRF Bn. can be ensured within a stipulated time frame.

Reply of the Government

No women Unit is authorized/formed in NDRF. However, all CAPFs have been requested to send nomination of 108 Mahila personnel for each NDRF Unit within the authorization of CTs (GD)/Male in NDRF for rescue and relief operations for women victims.

Each NDRF Battalion is having 06 Coys and each Coy consisting 03 teams, all CAPFs were requested to provide Mahila team to each Battalion of NDRF as per following composition against the authorization of 1149 posts in a NDRF Battalion so that services of Mahila contingent can be utilized in all Coys of NDRF:

Inspector (GD)/Sub Inspector (GD)	06 (01 per Coy)
Head Constable (GD)	18 (03 per Coy)
Constable (GD)	84 (12 per Coy)

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 9 of Chapter I)

CHAPTER V

Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 2)

The Committee are happy to note that through NDRF, the Government have raised a multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, stand-alone force capable of effectively responding to all types of disasters and disaster like situations and to mitigate the effects of disasters. In this connection, they note that the National Policy on Disaster Management -2009 also mandates NDRF for Capacity Building of the community. The Force is relentlessly engaged in the “community capacity building and Public Awareness and preparedness programme of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) involving State Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire Services, NCC Cadets, NGOs, NYKS, Students, Volunteers and other stakeholders. Such capacity building programmes are conducted when the NDRF is not engaged in disaster response or relief works. The need of training is being worked out/ prioritized by the NDRF Units based on the vulnerability profile of the districts, as per the Vulnerability Atlas prepared by BMTPC. Accordingly, the syllabus and Training Programme is being prepared by the Board of Instructors in consultation with the experienced officials of field formations and duly approved by the Competent Authority. The Committee further note that in order to cater to the training needs of NDRF personnel and other stakeholders, the Government of India had approved on 27th September, 2018, the creation of a NDRF Academy by merging it with National Civil Defence College, Nagpur. Currently the Academy is being run at the erstwhile NCDC campus at Civil Lines, Nagpur. New infrastructure project for the Academy has been reportedly sanctioned at a total project cost of ₹ 125 Crore, possession of 153 acre of land has already been taken and the foundation stone for the project laid in 2020. Construction work has been in progress now. The Committee hope that a complete construction schedule, funds allocation and utilization details and date of completion of new Academy building project has been worked out and desire that it may be provided to them. They also desire the Government to ensure that the project is completed in the stipulated time and within cost schedules. The Committee are desirous of being apprised about its current status.

Reply of the Government

As per mandate, NDRF is continuously engaged in capacity building & awareness programs for community & other stakeholders concern.

NDRF Academy was established in 2018 after merging with erstwhile National Civil Defence College (NCDC) to draw synergy among various stakeholders involved in imparting training in the field of the Disaster Management.

The construction for Training infrastructure of NDRF Academy has already commenced and new academy premises is coming up over 153.278 acres of land at Nagpur, Maharashtra. Date of completion of New Academy building project is March, 2023. Complete construction schedule details are attached at **Annexure-A**.

Funds allocations and utilization details:-

Allocations:

Establishment of NDRF Academy at an estimated cost of ₹ 125.01 Crore, which includes:-

- Development of Infrastructure at cost of ₹85.16 Crore.
- Land at a cost of ₹18.61 Crore.
- Provision for specialized equipment, IT, Vehicles & Clothing at a cost of ₹13.05 Crore.
- Recurring Expenditure for 110 posts at a cost of ₹ 8.19 Crore.

Utilization :

As on 31.8.2022, ₹ 36.12 crore has been utilized.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 12 of Chapter I)

Observations/Recommendations (Para No 5)

The Committee note that infrastructure development at 11 Bns, 10 team locations and NDRF Academy has been approved at a total estimated cost of ₹ 1272.26 crore. The infrastructure development, however, reportedly got delayed due to several reasons like time taken for land allotment/acquisition and clearance procedures by the local bodies, other local issues, Covid-19 pandemic impact and in case of Battalions, at Assam and Krishna, due to change of land by the State Government. Nonetheless, now the infrastructure at six Bn locations viz. Kolkata, Mundali, Arakkonam, Pune, Vadodara and Krishna and six team locations at Siliguri, Kolkata, Dwarka, Vishakhapatnam, Bengaluru and Balasore have been completed. Other Bns. at Ludhiana, Ghaziabad and Patna and team locations at Dehradun, Kishangarh and Supaul are reportedly near completion and will be completed by 2021-22. The Committee hope that no major cost overruns were experienced due to the delay and would like to be apprised of the latest position of infrastructure projects at the action taken stage. They further desire that the facilities completed must be put to maximum use by the Battalions. However, few cases need attention. In one case at Guwahati, the Committee were informed that the land allocated for 1Bn. falls under eco-sensitive zone and, if alternative land is provided by

the State Government, the work will be completed by 2024. The Committee are surprised to note as to how the Ministry has committed to complete the work by March 2024, when there is no alternative land made available by the State Government presently. Similarly, for RRC/Team location at Gandhinagar 06 Bn., while approval for selection of a PSU for the same is pending with MHA, the date of completion has already been fixed for 31.03.2023. The Committee hence desire to know status of both these projects, and in case of their non-completion, suggest that before finalising the date of completion of infrastructure work of above Bns., the NDRF may take up the matter at the highest level of the Assam Government and the MHA too for early resolution first and then finalise a realistic date for their completion. The outcome of these efforts may be apprised at the action taken stage. With regard to RRC/Team locations in 10 cities, the Committee were informed about likely completion in 7 places by 31.3.2022. They desire to be apprised of the progress thereof too.

Reply of the Government

After reviewing the progress of the work, the Ministry of Home Affairs on 04.10.2021, in consultation with Ministry of Finance, has conveyed approval of the EFC for continuation of the on-going sub-schemes for the FY 2021-22 to 2025-26, without any cost overruns. Out of the 12 NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy Nagpur, construction work has been completed at 07 no. NDRF battalions i.e. 02 Bn. NDRF at Haringhata (WB), 3rd Bn. NDRF at Mundali, 4th Bn. NDRF at Arakkonam, 5th Bn. NDRF at Pune (MH), 6th Bn. NDRF at Vadodara (Gujarat), office buildings at 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad (UP), 10th Bn. NDRF at Krishna (AP). The work at remaining NDRF Battalions and NDRF Academy, Nagpur is yet to be completed. Latest status of construction work at remaining locations is as under: -

- (vii) 7th Bn. NDRF at Ludhiana - 87%.
- (viii) 8th Bn. NDRF at Ghaziabad - 51%.
- (ix) 9th Bn. NDRF at Patna - 64%.
- (x) 12th Bn. NDRF at Hollongi (AP) - 17%.
- (xi) NDRF Academy at Nagpur: - 38%. (Work will be completed by 31.03.2023).
- (xii) 1st Bn NDRF in the State of Assam: - The work could not be started due to land issue.

Out of the 10 no. approved team locations, work has been completed at 07 team locations i.e. Siliguri, Kolkata, Balasore, Kishangarh, Dwarka (New Delhi) Bangalore & Vishakhapatnam. Work is under progress at the following team locations: -

- (iv) Dehradun under 8th Bn. NDRF-88%. (work will be completed in CFY).

- (v) Supaul under 9th Bn. NDRF-58%. (work will be completed in CFY).
- (vi) Gandhinagar- Work has been started for which, MoU with agency has been signed recently on 12.04.2022.

1st Bn. NDRF in Assam (issue of allotment of land): - Construction work at 1st Bn. NDRF could not be started till date due to land issue. NDRF & Ministry of Home Affairs has vigorously pursuing the matter with State Govt. of Assam for early allotment of alternative land for NDRF Bn. in Guwahati. In this context, a meeting through VC was taken by Union Home Secretary on 04.02.2021 with the Chief Secretary, Assam. Accordingly, it was envisaged that if land is provided by the State Govt. then work would be completed by March 2024.

Meanwhile, the State Govt. had identified 02 alternate lands but the same were not found suitable. Thereafter, follow up meeting was again taken by the Additional Secretary, MHA on 06.07.2021 with the Officers of State Government of Assam to review the progress on land issue.

Thereafter, 75 Bigha (25 acres approx.) Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) land at Village- Majirgoun, Azara circle was identified by the State Govt., which was found suitable by NDRF. The State Govt. of Assam had accorded in principal approval for transfer of the said land to NDRF. But again, due to certain issues at local level, it was not fructified.

Again, Union Home Secretary *vide* DO Letter dated 28.10.2021 requested Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam to provide sufficient & suitable land at Guwahati for NDRF Bn.

Now, NDRF has identified a piece of Govt. Revenue land measuring 530 Bighas 2 Katha 5 lecha at **Sanapara Parbat** under **Hajo Circle** office, Kamrup (Rural). Accordingly, a case for allotment of above land with land details and coordinates has been sent to DC Kamrup (Rural) by NDRF on 12.07.2022. In response, the case has further been submitted by DC Kamrup (Rural) to Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam. The case is under process. After the allotment of the land, the time line for completion of the battalion infrastructure will be revised, if needed.

Selection of PSU for construction work at team location Gandhinagar: - Earlier, during 2021, NDRF *vide* UO Note dated 04.03.2021 had requested MHA to award the subject work to M/s HSCL, after carrying out online bid formalities as per GFR. But, due to infirmity in the tendering process, it was decided that the construction of infrastructure at team location Gandhinagar of 6th Bn. NDRF be re-tendered. Accordingly, the process of re-tendering was done, which has now been completed and accordingly, the work has been awarded to PSU namely C&DS, U.P. Jal Nigam, Noida. MoU has also been

signed by NDRF with the PSU on 12.04.2022 and the work scheduled for completion by 30th April 2023.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 15 of Chapter I)

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 9)

The Committee note that the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been set up as planning, coordinating and implementing bodies for disaster management and to take all measures in the districts, as per the guidelines laid down by National and State Authorities. DDMAs have been constituted in all the districts. The Committee further note that so far 7000 community volunteers in 30 most flood prone Districts of 25 States have been trained under 'Aapda Mitra Scheme' which is intended to be increased to 1 lakh and feel that such efforts need to continue to cover other disaster prone areas in Hill districts too where landslides, cloudbursts, earthquakes etc. are increasingly being experienced. The Committee also note that Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 mandates that every district of a State shall prepare their Disaster Management Plan (DMP). This includes the areas in the district vulnerable to different form of disasters and DMP of a district has to be drawn up by the State Disaster Management Authority. So far out of 732 districts in the Country, 673 districts have drawn their DMP. Guidelines prepared by NDMA for management of specific disasters are to be taken into account by the concerned 37 authorities while preparing their DMP. The Committee desire that the DMPs of remaining 59 districts also need to be prepared and approved expeditiously in a time bound manner. They may be apprised of the progress in this regard. The Committee are happy to note that NDMA brings awareness of disasters through electronic and print media. However, they are of the view that to strengthen States' capacities in disaster education, regular mock drills may be conducted and physical camps set up in disaster prone districts of the Country with the help of retired CAPF personnel, suitably trained senior NCC Cadets residing in the district, so that trained citizens can act as first responders during the time of any disaster. The Committee further opine that BSF and SSB should also provide assistance/support to NDRF/SDRF in case a need is felt during any disaster. The Committee desire the Ministry to consider these measures and apprise them of action taken on the same.

Reply of the Government

(a). **Aapda Mitra:** It is to state that under the Pilot Scheme of Aapda Mitra, a total number of 5513 volunteers were trained against the target of 6,000 volunteers. Under the ongoing Up-scaled Aapda Mitra Scheme, nearly 14710 volunteers against the

targets of 1 lakh have been trained, so far. Further it is clarified that the Up-scaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme is being implemented in 350 districts of India including hilly areas. These districts have been identified based on their proneness to landslide, earthquakes, floods and cyclones.

(b). **Disaster Management Plan** : The recommendations of the Committee have been noted. The States where Disaster Management Plan (DMP) of remaining 59 districts are yet to be prepared, shall be requested to prepare their DMP expeditiously taking into account, inter alia, guidelines for management of specific disasters prepared by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

(c). **Distt. Level Mock Exercises** : On 30th June 2020, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, carried out a review of the country's disaster management activities and thereafter directed that mock exercises should be conducted in each district of the country at least once in every three years for the following purposes :

- (a) To ensure that every district can constitute field trained teams for disaster response.
- (b) To test the efficacy of every district's disaster management plans and its preparedness component.
- (c) To bring in greater cohesion and coordination amongst, and between, different stakeholder.

On the day of a district's mock exercise, the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) of the concerned district and of the State/UT shall also visit schools in their jurisdiction and conduct mock drills in 10 to 20 pre- identified schools in the district.

In accordance with the directions, the NDRF has been tasked with conducting mock exercises at the district level, This training is being implemented in phases, as indicated below :

Phase	FY	Districts covered
Phase-I	2020-21	98
Phase-II	2021-22	239
Phase-III	2022-23	Annual Calendar of Distt Level MEs covering 298 Districts has been circulated to all States / UTs.

As per Section 22(2) (p) & 30 (2) (xxviii) DM Act 2005, State / District Authorities are responsible to carry out Disaster management drills periodically. However, NDMA facilitates States / UTs in conduct of State/UT/ Multi State Level Mock Exercises on the disaster scenario based on the vulnerability profile of the State/UT with the active participation of State / UT authorities, distt Administrations, line Department, community volunteers and Central Agencies like EW Agencies, Armed Forces, CAPFs and NDRF. During the year 2021-22, NDMA coordinated and conducted 21 such online Table Top Exercises (TTEEx) including 02 physical Mock Exercises.

The contents of recommendation under this para have been noted. However, it is submitted that all CAPFs, including BSF and SSB, are already providing immediate response in case of any disaster as per the need and also provides all necessary supports/assistance to the NDRF Bns/Teams as and when required by them. It may also be submitted that SSB has operationalized 18 Rescue & Relief Team (RRTs) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir to carry out rescue and relief operations during disaster situations in the area of operation of SSB. Further, SSB is carrying out rescue & relief operations in border areas in the AoR of SSB. Further, Regional Response Centres for responding to disasters have also been set up by ITBP.

The Government of India is committed to provide all supports and make available all the necessary resources required for providing response, relief and rescue in case of any disaster.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para no. 21 of Chapter I)

**NEW DELHI;
16 March, 2023
25 Phalguna, 1944 (Saka)**

**GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES**

Annexure - 'A'

BUILDING WISE COMPLETION PLAN OF NDRF ACADEMY NAGPUR

S.N.	Name of work	Target Date of Completion	New target date of completion as submitted by IrconISL
1	Office Building	23.05.2022	31.03.2023
2	180 Men Barrack (1 no)	30.11.2022	
3	Trainee Officers Hostel &	12.07.2022	
4	GOs Mess		
5	SOs Mess	24.06.2022	
6	MT Garage work shop	08.05.2022	
7	FWC cum shopping complex	26.04.2022	
8	Training Block :-	26.05.2022	
	i. Swimming Pool with diving tank water treatment plant for swimming pool and deep diving		
	ii. Drill Shed		
	iii. USAR building with Basic Rubble Field with High Rise Rescue Tower		
	iv. Specialized External Development (Retaining walls, cutting & filling due to sloping site)		
	v. Training Block		
	vi. QM Store		
	vii. MI Room		
	viii. Gymnasium cum indoor sports complex		
	ix. 30 Nos dog kennel		
	x. Auditorium		
	xi. Volley Ball Court		
	xii. Basket Ball Court		
9	Type-II Quarters (48 nos)	20.12.2022	
10	Type-III Quarters (24 nos)	19.11.2022	
11	Type-IV Quarters (12 nos)	07.11.2022	
12	Type-V Quarters (4 nos)	01.11.2022	
13	Type-VI Quarters (1 nos)	10.10.2022	

MINUTES OF THE 16th SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2022-23)

The 16th Sitting of the Committee was held on **Thursday, 16 March, 2023 at 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs. in Room No.52B, Parliament House, New Delhi-110001**

PRESENT

Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan – Convener

MEMBERS

2. Kunwar Danish Ali
3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee
4. Shri P.P. Choudhary
5. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
6. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
7. Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanji Kundariya
8. Dr. K.C. Patel
9. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
10. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
11. Shri Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy
12. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy
13. Shri Dilip Saikia
14. Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha
15. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
16. Shri Prathap Simha
17. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
18. Shri Shyam Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Muraleedharan. P - Director
3. Shri R. C. Sharma - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Convener welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and briefed them about the agenda of the sitting viz. Consideration and adoption of three draft report(s).

3. The Committee then took up for consideration and adoption of the following draft Reports:

- i. XXX XXX XXX
- ii. XXX XXX XXX
- iii. Action Taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their 13rd Report (17th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Review of National Disaster Response Force' relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

4. The Committee after due deliberations adopted the draft Action Taken Reports without any modifications and authorised the Convener to present the same to Lok Sabha.

5. XXX XXX XXX

The Committee, thereafter, adjourned.

APPENDIX II

ANALYSIS OF Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 13th Report of the Committee on Estimates (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)

(i)	Total number of recommendations/observations	15
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: (SI. NO. 3,4,6,7,8,10,11,12,14,15)	10
	Percentage of total recommendations	66.66%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply: NIL	00
	Percentage of total recommendations	NIL
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee: (SI. NO. 1,13)	02
	Percentage of total recommendations	13.33%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final reply of Government is still awaited: (SI. No. 2,5,9)	03
	Percentage of total recommendations	20%