No. 706(19)-RL/N/II/7M-46/13

From: Md. Ikhlaque Islam, WBCS (Exc.),
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

To: The District Magistrate, Paschim Medinipur

Subject: Review of the list of Items and Norms of Expenditure from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20

Sir,

The Government of India is in the process of reviewing the list of Items and Norms of Expenditure from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the period from 2015-16 to 2019-20. A copy of the revised Items and Norms of assistance from SDRF/ NDRF for the period 2015-2020 as published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide No.32-7/2014-NDM-I dated 8th April, 2015 is enclosed herewith for your ready reference. It can also be downloaded from www.ndmindia.nic.in. It is seen therefrom that the assistances are related to provision of immediate relief and restoration which are palliative in nature and do not go towards even meeting a fraction of the loss in terms of life, injury or cost of the asset.

Disaster Management in its current context includes a continuum of activities starting with the pre-disaster phase (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), impact phase (emergency relief and restoration) and post-disaster phase (reconstruction and rehabilitation). Be that as it may, it may not be possible to cover every aspect of disaster management when the SDRF resources are limited but there is a case for taking up areas other than immediate relief in a more strategic manner.

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In addition to the upward revision of the compensation norms, inclusion of risk transfer especially in agriculture sector and defining local disasters which are not in the list of disasters notified by Ministry of Home Affairs, etc. could be thought off. Convergence of other schemes of various Departments for restoration and rehabilitation would also need to be considered.

In the circumstances stated above, your valued opinion is very much essential on the following issues to review the said items and norms as directed by the Govt. of India:

- Review of the list of items and norms of expenditure from SDRF
- Identification of State specific disasters within the local context in the State for which assistance can be given from SDRF
- Identification of the possibility of risk transfer and convergence of resources from various schemes of various Departments for restoration and rehabilitation of post disaster.

I, therefore, request you to offer your valuable opinion so that it reaches this Department on or before 25th April, 2015 positively.

Yours faithfully,

Joint Secretary

to the Govt. of West Bengal