

ANNEXURE - 'F'

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

New Delhi, dt 10.7.08


No.2003/Safety(DM)/6/3

General Managers
All Indian Railways including
General Manager, Kolkata Metro.

Sub: National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

In continuation to Board's letter of even number dated 13.6.08 advising Zonal Railways to get in touch with NDRF officers, Minutes of the meeting held between Railway Board officers and National Disaster Management Authority officials is hereby enclosed for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.


(Amitabh)
Director (Safety)
Railway Board

Minutes of the Meeting on Management of Railway Disasters(Accidents) held on 23rd Apr'2008 at HQ NDMA, Centaur Hotel, Near IGI Airport, New Delhi

A meeting chaired by Shri K M Singh, Hon'ble Member, NDMA was held, on 23rd Apr'2008 at 1500 hrs in the conference Room of NDMA at Centaur Hotel, near IGI Airport, New Delhi to discuss the co-ordination and cooperation between NDMA, specially NDRF and the Railway Safety, Ministry of Railway(Govt of India) to handle Railway Disasters(Accidents) in the country.

2. The Hon'ble Member welcomed Sh Girish Chandra, Advisor (Safety) and other members of the Ministry of Railway who attended the said meeting and appreciated the functioning of Railways and the efforts being made to handle the Railway accidents and disaster in a very prompt and efficient manner throughout the country since inception of Indian Railways. He mentioned that Railway Safety is taking adequate precautions in handling the Railway accidents. He further mentioned that NDMA, specially NDRF, will play pro-active role in supporting the Ministry of Railway in handling the Railway disaster to save the precious lives of Railway passengers, if met with high intensive accidents. He also briefed the members attending the meeting about, constitution, deployment and role & tasks of NDRF Bns. The NDRF Bns located at 08 different locations are under process of being organized, trained and quipped to carry out search, rescue and relief operations during any natural or man-made disaster and will also provide all possible support to Ministry of Railways in their endeavors to carry out such tasks if called for. Although, the NDRF is meant to deal with only level 3 disasters but will also take such steps even in lesser severity of disaster if situation arises. The Hon'ble Member, NDMA further clarified that the NDRF personnel are not trained in Bomb disposal and are also not to be deployed on Security and other Law & Order related duties at the site of disaster except specialized search and rescue operation.

3. The following are the issues discussed during the meeting: -

a) Requisition of NDRF personnel

Although the Standing Operative Procedures (SOPs) are under preparation to requisition the NDRF personnel for search, rescue and relief operations for any Natural/ Man-made disaster but till it is finalized, there is immediate need to work out a mechanism of

communication and co-ordination for deployment of NDRF personnel for management of Railway disasters (Accidents) to save precious lives of traveling passengers. He emphasized on better co-ordination and co-operation. It was decided that the Ministry of Railway would direct the Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) to liaise with NDRF Bn Commandants through co-ordination meetings so that they know each other's capabilities and mechanisms to carry out the tasks of search, rescue and relief operations without loss of time. The details of NDRF locations alongwith names of Commandants and their telephone Nos. were handed over to Members participating, who could be contacted immediately for support and also for co-operation meeting from time to time.

b) Proactive approach

It was decided that NDRF personnel will play a pro-active role in responding to the demand of DRMs in whose areas such incidents takes place, so that the lives of personnel involved in the accidents could be saved. The DRM may immediately approach the respective NDRF Commandant under whose area of responsibility the above incident took place with information to NDMA. Sh K M Singh, Hon'ble Member of NDMA is required also to be simultaneously apprised with the situation by the Ministry of Railway and NDRF Bn commandants. The NDRF teams alongwith all available equipments will move immediately to the nearest approachable site of Railway disaster to carry out the task.

c) Interaction between NDRF & Railway safety

The interaction always plays a great role for managing disaster and therefore, it was decided that a regular coordination meeting between NDRF Bn Commandant and Railway safety officers/DRM be held, so that they know each other's capacity and capabilities to deal with any emergent situation. Such meetings could be arranged by respective DRMs with information to DG NDRF and NDMA.

d) Mock Exercises

The mock exercises play an important role in preparing the stakeholders and others engaged in managing disasters. It also gives an opportunity to fill up the gaps left, if any, during course of managing the actual disaster. Therefore, it was decided that whenever Mock Exercises are undertaken in the State(s) by the NDMA, the Railway safety officials would also be associated and the Railway facilities/infrastructure available could be incorporated in the composite management of disaster. The Railway safety has a number of proactive arrangements placed at different locations, which can be very handy and useful even for NDMA.

e) Training of Trainers

The Hon'ble Member mentioned that during last DsG & IsG level conference held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi in 2006 the NDMA offered to train the Trainers of various Police training Institutions in management of disaster as part of capacity building in respective Police Forces of the country. He offered NDMA's assistance to train the Trainers, posted in various Trg. centers of Railway Protection Force(RPF). It was decided that RPF would indicate the requirement so that the above training could be planned at one of the NDRF premier training center at NISA Hyderabad.

f) Exposure to NDRF Personnel

The management of Railway disaster/accident has entirely a different approach and therefore, it was felt necessary that NDRF personnel be exposed to design and the safety measures available in Railway bogies/coaches so that they are effective while carrying out the rescue operations of the trapped passengers at the accidental site. In view of above, it was decided that the

respective DRM will provide an opportunity to facilitate the training of NDRF personnel with their various Railway safety training to acquaint the NDRF personnel.

4. Sh Girish Chandra, Advisor (Safety), Ministry Railway thanked the Hon'ble Member and appreciated the NDMA proactive role and support offered to the Ministry of Railway in managing the Railway disaster/accident. He further mentioned that although the Railway Safety has enough capacity & capability to handle the minor Railway disaster but on occasions, it gets struck due to inaccessible terrain/site of disaster and also due to insufficient medical support due to a large number of personnel/passengers being injured and requested for the support of NDRF in such a situation. The Hon'ble Member, NDMA appreciated the problems of Ministry of Railway and mentioned that all possible help would be rendered by NDRF to ease out such situation. He further mentioned that NDRF BNs have sufficient number of personnel trained in helislithering and it may be possible to helidrop trained NDRF personnel at the site in case of major disasters once S.O.P for the same is finalised. However, till it is finalized, the Railway will have to take care of transporting the Rescue Teams with equipments to the site of disaster/accident site from nearest approachable location.

5. As there was no any other point, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

A list of participants is enclosed.

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF MEETING HELD REGARDING
MANAGEMENT OF RAILWAY DISASTER (ACCIDENT) 23.04.2008**

National Disaster Management Authority

1. Sh K M Singh, Hon'ble Member, NDMA -chaired the meeting
2. Sh Shivajee Singh, Specialist, NDRF
3. Sh R K Sinha, Comdt/SO to Member (KMS)
4. Col. B B Pandey, HQ DG NDRF & Civil Defence.

Ministry of Railways

1. Sh Girish Chandra, Advisor (Safety)
2. Sh Rajeev Verma, Addl DG RPF
3. Dr Pankaj Kapoor, Executive Director Health (Planning).
4. Amitabh, IRSME, Director