

Home Secy directs States to gear up ahead of monsoon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Tuesday directed States to step up their preparedness by advance planning and deployment of human, physical and financial resources ahead of the monsoon season.

Addressing the annual conference of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries here, the Home Secretary also reviewed the preparedness for the South-West Monsoon expected to arrive by June 6 and disbursement of central assistance.

The Centre released over Rs 17,000 crore as assistance to states affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone and drought last year, Gauba said adding the central government has sanctioned additional battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which are being raised in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR.

The Home Secretary said the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the NDRF and the SDRF besides mobilisation of central forces to the states and the UTs in connection with preparedness during the South-West Monsoon. Gauba said during the recent cyclone 'Fani', loss of human lives was minimal due to accurate and early weather forecasting by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and timely mobilisation of resources besides better coordination between the Centre, state governments and other relevant agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General, IMD, K J Ramesh said India has set a new benchmark in disaster risk reduction as demonstrated during cyclone Fani. The IMD is in the process of building the most advanced early warning weather system in coordination with various stakeholders, he said.

Over ₹17,000 cr given to states as disaster relief last yr: Govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The Centre released over Rs 17,000 crore as assistance to states affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone and drought last year, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba said on Tuesday.

He also said the central government has sanctioned additional battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which are being raised in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR.

The Centre released more than Rs 7,000 crore under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and an additional Rs 10,000 crore under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) last year to the states as

disaster relief, said Gauba in his inaugural address at the annual conference of relief commissioners and secretaries here.

He asked the states and the Union Territories to step up their preparedness by advance planning and deployment of human, physical and financial resources ahead of the monsoon season. In the meeting, which reviewed the preparedness for the South-West Monsoon-2019, the Union home secretary said the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the NDRF and the SDRF besides mobilisation of central forces to the states and the UTs. Gauba said during the recent cyclone 'Fani', loss of human lives was minimal due to accurate and early weather forecasting by the IMD.

Centre asks states to get ready for S-W monsoon

Home secy calls for building disaster-resilient Infrastructure as a long-term measure

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
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Encouraged by the planning and advance preparedness done to minimise the damage caused by the recent cyclone Fani in east-coast states, the Centre today asked state governments to gear up their mechanism to face this year's South-West monsoons.

At the Centre's annual conference of States' Relief Commissioners and Secretaries to review preparedness for South West Monsoon-2019, home secretary Rajiv Gauba said the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Relief Funds (SDRF), besides provision of Central forces.

The Centre had released more than Rs 7,000 crore under the SDRF and an additional Rs 10,000 crore under the NDRF last year for relief work, he said.

The states should undertake capacity building of urban local bodies, State Disaster Response Forces,

Secretary Rajiv Gauba said the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the NDRF and the SDRF

Fire Services and Civil Defence as they are the first responders during a calamity, he said. Gauba urged the States to increase coverage of farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop insurance scheme to provide immediate relief to farmers in the event of natural disasters.

When cyclone *Fani* struck, home secretary Gauba said the loss of human lives was minimal due to accurate and early weather forecasting by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and timely mobilisation of resources besides better coordination among Centre, State Governments and other relevant agencies.

Commending the work done by various agencies in mitigating the hardships caused by the cyclone, he asked the States to further

improve their capabilities.

Citing a UN Report, the home secretary said disasters had caused economic losses of \$3 trillion globally during the last two decades. India alone suffered losses to the tune of \$80 billion during 1997-2017. Stating that India was prone to various kinds of disasters, Gauba called for building disaster resilient Infrastructure as a long term measure to minimise the economic losses.

The home secretary said the government has sanctioned additional battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and new battalions are being set up in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi NCR.

IMD director-general K J Ramesh said India has set a new benchmark in Disaster Risk Reduction as demonstrated during the recent cyclone *Fani*. IMD is in the process of building the most advanced Early Warning Weather System in coordination with various stakeholders, he added.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department has issued a fresh yellow weather warning for thunderstorm in Himachal Pradesh on 22 and 23 May, an official said.

The Shimla Meteorological Centre has forecast thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds in plains and low and middle hills of the state on Wednesday and Thursday, he said.

The MeT office issues colour-coded warnings to alert the public ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause 'damage, widespread disruption and/or danger to life.'

Yellow is the least dangerous out of the weather warnings it indicates the possibility of severe weather over the next few days that could affect the public.

The lowest temperature in the state was recorded in Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong at 5.5 degrees Celsius, while the highest temperature in Himachal Pradesh was recorded in Una at 41 degrees Celsius.

Rajiv Gauba calls on States for better preparedness ahead of the South West Monsoon



New Delhi, The Union Home Secretary Shri Rajiv Gauba has called on the States and Union Territories to step up their preparedness by advance planning and deployment of human, physical and financial resources ahead of the monsoon season. In his inaugural address at the annual conference of Relief Commissioners/Secretaries to review Preparedness for South West Monsoon-2019, he said that the Centre would provide all possible assistance under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) besides mobilization of Central Forces. Shri Gauba said the Centre had released more than Rs. 7,000 crores under SDRF and an additional Rs. 10,000 crore under NDRF last year to the

States for Disaster Relief. He called upon the States to undertake capacity building of urban local bodies, State Disaster Response Force, Fire Service and Civil Defence since they are the first responders during a calamity. He urged the States to increase coverage of farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana crop insurance scheme to provide immediate relief to farmers in the event of natural disasters.

During the recent Cyclone Fani, Shri Gauba said loss of human lives was minimal due to accurate and early weather forecasting by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and timely mobilization of resources besides better coordination among Centre, State Governments and other relevant agencies. Commending the

excellent work done by various agencies in mitigating the hardships caused by Cyclone Fani, he asked the States to further improve their capabilities to be able to effectively handle the disaster situations. Citing a UN Report, the Union Home Secretary said disasters had caused economic losses of US \$3 trillion globally during the last two decades. India alone suffered losses to the tune of \$80 billion during 1997-2017. Stating that our country is prone to various kinds of disasters, Shri Gauba called for building Disaster Resilient Infrastructure as a long term measure to minimize the economic losses.

The Union Home Secretary said the Government has sanctioned additional Battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and new Battalions are being set up in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi NCR. Speaking on the occasion, Director General, IMD, Dr. KJ Ramesh said India has set a new benchmark in Disaster Risk Reduction as demonstrated during the recent cyclone Fani. IMD is in the process of building the most advanced Early Warning Weather System in coordination with various stakeholders, he added. In his address, Dr. DN Sharma, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), said that India

has been able to reduce deaths due to natural disasters substantially. While 385 people had died last year due to natural disasters, the figure came down to 195 this year. He said the NDMA has come out with the Urban Flood Management Plan in 2015, which can serve as a template for tackling monsoon flooding. The NDMA provides Rs. One Lakh to each district to conduct mock disaster prevention and awareness exercises. Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Shri SN Pradhan said prediction, prepositioning of resources and proactive partnerships among various stakeholders are crucial for effective countering of natural disasters. He said the NDRF is committed to optimum deployment and will work in close coordination with the States to tackle various disaster situations. In his opening remarks, Shri Sanjeev Jindal, Joint Secretary, MHA said the annual conference on monsoon preparedness has been extended to two days for the first time to allow for a comprehensive planning ahead of the monsoon season. The conference is being attended by relief commissioners of State governments and Union Territories and officials of IMD, Geological Survey of India, MHA, Defence Ministry and Central Water Commission.

राज्यों को आपदा प्रबंधन के लिए 17 हजार करोड़ दिए

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

केन्द्र सरकार ने पिछले साल बाढ़, चक्रवात और सूखे से प्रभावित राज्यों को मदद के लिए 17 हजार करोड़ रुपये से अधिक राशि जारी की है। यह जानकारी मंगलवार को केंद्रीय गृह सचिव राजीव गौबा ने राहत आयुक्तों और सचिवों के सालाना सम्मेलन दी। इसका आयोजन मानसून से पहले तैयारियों की समीक्षा के लिए किया गया था।

गौबा ने राज्यों और केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों से मानसून सत्र से पहले बेहतर

योजना बनाने और सभी तैयारियां पूरी करने के निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने बताया कि केंद्र ने पिछले साल राज्य आपदा राहत कोष (एसडीआरएफ) के तहत सात हजार करोड़ रुपये और राष्ट्रीय आपदा राहत कोष (एनडीआरएफ) के तहत दस हजार करोड़ अतिरिक्त जारी किये।

इसके अलावा केंद्र ने राष्ट्रीय आपदा मोचन बल (एनडीआरएफ) की अतिरिक्त बटालियनों को भी मंजूरी दे दी है। इन्हें जम्मू कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड और दिल्ली-एनसीआर में तैनात किया जाएगा।

States Got Over ₹ 17,000 crore Disaster Relief Aid Last Year



New Delhi: The Centre released over ₹17,000 crore as assistance to states affected by natural calamities like floods, cyclone and drought last year, Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba said on Tuesday. He also said the central government has sanctioned additional battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which are being raised in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi-NCR. The Centre released more than ₹7,000 crore under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and an additional Rs 10,000 crore under the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) last year to the states as disaster relief, said Gauba in his inaugural address at the annual conference of relief.—PTI