

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT  
ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
ITANAGAR**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Let us hope for the best and prepare for the worst: Governor on Disaster  
Management and Preparedness**

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa reviewed the Disaster Management and Disaster Preparedness in the State at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Chief Minister Shri Kalikho Pul, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Chowna Mein, Chief Secretary Smt Shakuntala Gamlin, Shri Hage Khoda, Commissioner to Governor, Shri Hage Kojenn, Commissioner Disaster Management, Addl Secretary cum Director Disaster Management Smt Y.W. Ringu and IGP Shri Nabin Payeng along with Shri Shiv Om, Commandant, 12 Bn, National Disaster Response Force, Doimukh and Shri Tojo Karga, Commandant 1<sup>st</sup> AAP Bn & Nodal Officer, State Disaster Response Force and SP Fire Service Shri Kime Aya attended the high level meeting.

Reviewing the meeting, the Governor called for preparedness amongst the people to face any eventuality in case of disaster. He advised the State Government officials to mobilise volunteers and train the youth on disaster response procedure, starting from village level groups. He said that mock drills must be conducted involving students, volunteers, general public and elders in public places so that they prepare themselves how to respond during earthquakes or any natural calamities. Army and paramilitary personnel, NGOs must be involved. Control rooms must be set up immediately and activated round the clock. Communication network must be strengthened and mobile dispensaries and ambulances kept in place. Let us hope for the best and prepare for the worst, he added.

The Governor emphasised on safety audits be carried out along with survey of buildings and other important infrastructures.

Going through the State Disaster Management Committee, the Governor suggested that senior officials of PWD, Power, Education, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary may be included along with representatives from NGOs. He also suggested that Disaster Management meeting must be held immediately in the districts and ADC headquarters.

The Governor stressed that in the line of NDRF, such unit with dedicated and fully equipped trained people must also be stationed in different districts.

Participating in the discussion, Chief Minister Shri Pul briefed the Governor on action taken after the 13<sup>th</sup> April quake. He said that fund has been released to districts for addressing any disaster in the future.

The Chief Minister informed that helicopters will be pressed in service during the time of disaster and helipads are going to be upgraded.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister Shri Chowna Mein said that 13<sup>th</sup> April quake was an eye opener for all and people must prepare themselves for any such challenges in future. He added that elected representatives must actively involve in creating awareness on disaster response procedures. The Deputy Chief Minister, who has recently returned from tour to Eastern part of the State, said that flood situation is grim in those affected areas.

Chief Secretary Smt Gamlin briefed the meeting on the overall Disaster Management and Disaster Preparedness. During her PowerPoint presentation,

The Chief Secretary suggested for survey of buildings by scientist of IIT Roorkee. She said that there is a need for additional human resource especially to man the State Emergency Operation Centre 24X7X365 and Emergency response vehicles for DDMOs. Dedicated State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in the state with proper search and rescues equipments must be in place. There is a need to implement and execute the Building Bye Law in the ground.

The Chief Secretary emphasized on State Disaster Mitigation Fund for long term Disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

PRO to Governor  
Arunachal Pradesh  
ITANAGAR, April 16, 2016