

Jaipur

7<sup>th</sup> Feb '57.

Standing Order No. 1

SUB: INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERGENCY RELIEF ORGANIZATION SCHEME FOR RENDERING ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY FLOODS, FAMINE, FIRE AND OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES.

As you are aware the people look to the Government for relief and rehabilitation whenever large-scale disasters such as floods, famine, fire etc. occur in the country. In the past relief work was done by the Central Government and State Govts. not according to any pre-arranged plan or through any specialised services, but on an ad-hoc basis by switching over the available administrative services to the relief work that become immediately necessary. There are also a large number of non-official and semi-official welfare organizations in the country who are dedicated to such work and have been rendering valuable assistance during emergencies. Their work, too, was carried on largely on an ad hoc basis and not according to any pre-arranged plan.

2. Now in view of the fact that these disasters are of frequent occurrence and cause enormous damage to life and property in one part of the country or another, the Government of India have decided to set up a country wide organisation for emergency relief. This organisation will draw up a coordinated plan for setting up emergency services in each part of the country, mobilising for the purpose all the resources of official agencies as well as the fullest voluntary co-operation of non-official agencies and members of the public who may be <sup>willing to join</sup> inducted into the organisation. The basic idea is that relief operations should be conducted according to a predetermined and fully integrated and a composite organization of officials and volunteers drawn from the people, who would each have specific roles assigned in advance.

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be fully trained in those roles and would have the complete measure of the problem at all times.

3. The Government of India have accordingly drafted a definite scheme for the purpose according to ~~the~~ which there will be a Central Emergency Relief Organisation, E.R.O. at State level, E.R.O. in Districts and Rural areas, ~~with~~ and Field ~~of~~ agencies of the E.R.O. These various organisations will function and be guided by their respective Advisory Committees. So far as the Advisory Committees for E.R.Os. in Districts and rural areas are concerned, the Collector ~~is~~ will be the Chairman.

4. So far as the aim and objects of the E.R.O. are concerned, it will be required to -

- a) assess the magnitude of the problems arising out of natural calamities in the ~~the~~ various parts of the country;
- b) collect information relating to official and non-official agencies ~~of~~ that could be deployed for rendering assistance to people affected by these calamities;
- c) ascertain the resources available with these agencies for conducting relief operations ;
- d) coordinate the relief activities of the various agencies by -
  - i) evolving a common programme of work;
  - ii) drawing up operational plans in consultation with the agencies
  - iii) providing facilities for the training of volunteers etc. etc.
- e) establish liaison between the Central Govt. and the State Govts. and between local authorities and social welfare agencies.

5. For the purpose of the scheme, natural ~~the~~ calamities have been broadly classified as under :-

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- a) <sup>h</sup> Heavy floods, storms, cyclones, havoc caused by heavy rains and major accidents in rivers, lakes, etc.
- b) widespread famine;
- c) virulent epidemics;
- d) earthquakes, landslides, collapse of buildings etc.
- ~~d) virulent epidemics;~~
- e) <sup>w</sup> Major accidents in railways, docks and mines and at festivals, meals and other religious and social gatherings.
- f) Serious fire outbreaks.

6. It has been observed that the problems created by various types of natural calamities are not similar in all respects, but a good many of them have certain features in common. Consequently, the relief measures to be undertaken will, to a large extent, conform to a pattern which can be predetermined. For instance, measures such as -

- a) rescue of casualties, repairs to buildings and other structures, ~~and~~ salvage of property, debris clearance, <sup>b</sup> restoration of essential services;
- b) removal of those affected to safer areas; traffic control, emergency feeding, ~~relieving~~ <sup>relieving</sup> and clothing of the homeless, provision of essential supplies and water;
- c) first ~~aid~~ aid and medical attention, emergency sanitation, prevention of epidemics, care of animals, identification and disposal of the dead;
- d) prevention of panic and maintenance of <sup>morale</sup> ~~morale~~; ~~measures~~ <sup>like</sup> would be common to ~~most~~ <sup>like</sup> disasters including floods, fire, earthquakes, landslides and large-scale accidents at fairs, festivals and other social and religious gatherings.

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7. The Police is also expected to contribute towards the implementation of the above scheme. The role of the Police in certain aspects is vital and indispensable. The

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The Emergency Relief Services will require the assistance and co-operation of the police not only for maintaining law and order but also in the conduct of actual emergency relief operations. The following are some of the needs for which no alternative agency can perhaps serve as an adequate substitute :

a) Traffic Control

After a disaster the roads leading to the affected area are likely to be clogged with people fleeing the area as well as with curious onlookers from outside. People are also likely to queue on these roads with their belongings, thus blocking the passage of essential vehicles. As a result there may be serious delay in the relief services reaching the affected area. Therefore, traffic regulation by the Police becomes essential. They should keep the main roads leading to the disaster area free for the movement of essential personnel and relief supplies and equipment.

b) Cordoning off

Damaged walls of buildings about to collapse, damaged but live electric lines, burning buildings etc. are potential sources of danger. Members of the public as well as relief workers may inadvertently expose themselves to unnecessary danger. Such dangerous spots or areas should be cordoned off by the Police.

c) Restoration of Communications.

Maintenance of communications with the affected area is vitally important for relief work. In many cases, channels of communications such as the telephone and the telegraph may be cut off following a disaster. Police wireless vans will be helpful in such circumstances in providing alternate means of communication.

d) Public Health

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d) Public Health.

Making necessary arrangements for the preservation of the health of the people in the affected area is the responsibility of the local Public Health authorities./ But the assistance of the police may be required for enforcing the orders passed by such authorities with regard to sealing of contaminated wells, destruction of contaminated food etc.

e) Care and Salvage of unclaimed property.

Following a disaster, movable property (including valuables) whose owners have either become casualties or have left their homes are likely to be left uncared for. Proper steps would have to be taken to safeguard such property to prevent <sup>to</sup> ~~any looting of the property.~~ For this purpose, police patrols should be organised in the affected area immediately after the occurrence of a disaster. Besides, the property would have to be collected and kept in safe custody.

f) Disposal of Corpses.

Police assistance may be necessary in enquiring into the causes of death during and after a disaster and in the disposal of the corpses. ~~Ne~~ Particulars reg. the dead that may be available with the Police authorities will be required for being passed on to the next of kin, if known.

8. It is therefore enjoined that Police should not ~~lag behind~~ <sup>do</sup> in this task and play its role very sincerely and enthusiastically with due regard to humanity and national benefit. As the Scheme is to be operated through the District Agencies, close cooperation should be maintained with the Collectors and your subordinates staff may also be instructed to ~~re~~ render due assistance during emergencies as and when necessary.

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I.G.P.

*[Handwritten signature]*

To

All The District Superintents of Police,  
Rajasthan.

Copies to all the D.Is.G.P. for similar act

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