

CHAPTER V: MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation had overall responsibility for coordinating and monitoring of the preparedness for disaster, including monitoring of financial transactions of relief measures with the assistance of six Divisional Commissioners and 34 District Collectors. In so far as damages of agriculture, live stock, irrigation facilities, or public utilities are concerned, the Secretaries of the respective Departments (Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Water Resources, Urban Development, Public Works Department) were responsible for monitoring through their regional heads, where as free supply of food grains and medicines to the affected persons were monitored by Civil Supplies and Public Health Departments. The work of keeping strict vigil on the water levels in the reservoir and monitoring out flows effectively with enough warning to the people down stream was required to be done jointly by District Authorities and Reservoir Engineers of Water Resources Department. District Collectors were responsible for sending information in respect of flood damages and relief assistance actually extended to the victims, to the Divisional Commissioners, who in turn were to report it to the Government.

5.1 Audit findings

5.1.1 Monthly reports on relief expenditure

Reports showing sub-head wise relief expenditure incurred during each and every month were required to be sent to Government by 10th day of the following month through respective Divisional Commissioners and Commissioners of Agriculture. Entire expenditure was to be made before 31 December 2005.

It was observed that none of the District Collectors in the test checked districts had reported this expenditure within the prescribed time frame. In Sangli District, the final figures of expenditure incurred and families benefited were not ready even by May 2006 (after 11 months) for want of information from the Tahsils. Only two Tahsils Hatkanangale (Kolhapur) and Kurla (MSD) had reported timely to the Collectorates.

Government accepted (September 2006) the facts and stated that the position improved during the current year.

5.1.2 Reservoir monitoring

Continuous vigilance over embankments and water levels of the reservoirs and rainfall in the catchment area by mobilising trained volunteers besides departmental officers was not kept. Water levels in all the dams including Almatti dam were also not monitored. It was observed that Sangli District had suffered heavy losses due to backwater of Almatti Dam as detailed below.

Almatti Dam : Delay in raising alarm

The height of the Almatti Dam in Karnataka, constructed (1978-1989) on the river Krishna, flowing down from Maharashtra was the subject matter of a Supreme Court case. Technical studies conducted in the past by GOM indicated that the territory of Maharashtra in the vicinity of Sangli Town (RL-518 Meters) would come under submergence, if the full reservoir level (FRL) was kept at 519.60 M Supreme Court allowed FRL upto 519.60 M (2000) expecting the issue of submergence to be adjudicated by a competent tribunal. Clearance for raising storage level to 519.60 M was accordingly given by GOI (Central Water Commission and Planning Commission) subject to the condition that water storage level shall be so regulated, by discharging sufficient water, that there would not be any submergence in the territory of Maharashtra. In monsoon-2005, the Karnataka Government did not care to pre-deplete the reservoir for avoiding submergence in Maharashtra till 31 July 2005. Water storage due to heavy rainfall had reached full reservoir level (FRL-519.60 M) on 26 July 2005 itself. First letter for releasing water from Almatti Dam was written on 3 August 2005 to Karnataka, after Sangli got flooded fully. The Government of Karnataka from 31 July 2005, started releasing water from 519.60 M to 519.10 M and upto 517.20 M on 4 August 2005. Sangli remained under prolonged submergence for seven to eight days, mainly due to back water effect of Almmatti Dam, affecting many families, to whom GOM had granted relief assistance of Rs 58.78 crore. This could have been avoided, had the conditional clearance to the project by GOI been timely monitored by keeping close vigil on water levels in the Almatti dam by keeping a note of it in the State DMP.

Water levels in all other dams were also not monitored in 2005.

Government accepted (September 2006) the facts in respect of Almatti dam and stated that in 2006 the matter was taken care of.

5.2 Conclusion

None of the District Collectors in the test checked districts submitted the report on flood relief expenditure within the prescribed time frame mainly for want of information from Tahsil. Delay ranged up to 11 months. Water levels in all the dams including Almatti Dam in Karnataka were not monitored as required.

5.3 Recommendations

- Reporting of monthly expenditure and utilisation certificates by the executing agencies for submission to Government needs urgent attention.
- Monitoring and maintaining safe water levels in all the reservoirs, including Almatti Dam in Karnataka, particularly during rainy season needs to be strengthened at Government level.

Government accepted the recommendations during exit conference (September 2006)