Rush/Earthquake Situation Report No 49 Updated at 1200 hours on 14th February, 2001

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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
KRISHI CONTROL ROOM
www.ndmindia.nic.in

Subject: Earthquake of 26th January, 2001 in Gujarat and many parts of India.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Prime Minister to head 37-member all party National Committee on Disaster Management.
- Prime Minister cancelled foreign visit to Malaysia and Japan.
- Prime Minister held meeting with all Party Leaders / Groups on 3.2.2001.
- Rs. 500 crore assistance released by Govt. of India on 30.1.2001
- 4th meeting of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) held on 13th February 2001 and discussed the relief efforts in earthquake affected areas.
- 21 districts, 182 Talukas and 7904 villages affected.
- Out of 3.78 crore population 1.59 crore affected.
- Human lives lost: 17549, Persons Injured: 166836
- · Cattle deaths reported as 20623.
- Manpower in Kachchh: 28 Senior IAS Officers, 107 Administrative Officers, 2104 technical staff, 6213 non-technical staff, 199 Police Officers, 12 SRP Companies and more than 23,550 personnel from Armed Forces, 3000 from Para-Military Forces, 1949 Home Guards and 869 Police personnel, 590 Specialist Doctors/Medical Officers, 2016 Para medical Staff, 208 Volunteers deployed for rescue and relief operations.
- 13,355 manpower engaged through Contractors.
- Relief Equipments in Kachchh: 831 cranes/JCBs, 395 bulldozers/excavator, and 2679 loader/dumpers/ trucks, 1603 Jeep/Ambulances, 614 gas cutters/DG Sets/Sub pumps and 2895 other equipments.
- Relief equipments in Other Districts: 321 JCB / Cranes, 148 bulldozers/excavator, 174 loader dumpers/ trucks, 362 Jeep/Ambulances, 287 gas cutters/DG Sets/Sub pumps and 473 other equipments.
- 3646 ration shops functioning. 15714 MTs food grains supplied, 106 MTs milk powder/ 5192 milk powder packets, 872 MTs vegetables, 492 MTs edible oil, 19838 kls diesel & 7732 kls petrol, 14889 kls kerosene,
- Moreover, 23500 Qtls Wheat, 26880 Qlts Rice, 1050 Qtls Sugar, 379136 Pouches of edible oil and 18750 Qlts Flour distributed from the godowns of Kachchh Districts.

- 15672 Qtls of Flour, 4318 Qtls of Rice and 1572 Qtls of Edible Oil, 2858 Qtls potato 1344 Qtls Onion, 115115 packets each of spices & salt, and 149839 kitchen kits supplied free of cost in Bhuj, Anjar, Gandhidham, Rapar, Bhachau, Morbi / Malia, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Porbander and Varahi.
- All 45 damaged sub-stations & all 255 damaged feeders energised/restored.
- Power Supply fully restored in Kachchh area.
- Out of 18 towns and 1340 villages affected, water supply resorted to 9 towns through pipes and 9 through tankers. In villages, water supplied to 909 through pipes, 364 through tankers and 67 through other sources.
- Hospitals functioning: 34 in Kachchh and 361 in other Districts.
- 31 primary health centres of Kachchh and 949 in other Districts treating minor cases.
- 25 mobile hospital ambulances in Bhuj, 9 in Anjar, 9 in Bhachau, 4 in Rapar and 3 in Gandhidham providing services.
- Medical Officers/Specialists serving: 872 in Kachchh and 1947 in other Districts
- 166836 injured cases, and 18446 patients admitted.
- Rs. 3.54 crore drugs/disinfectants used.
- Road, rail and air traffic restored.
- Satellite phones, Hotlines, HAM radio and mobile telephones have been pressed into service to ensure proper communication.
- Rs.23.90 crore financial aid from NGOs individual donors.
- Rs. 43.58 crore donation received in Gujarat CM's Relief Fund out of which Rs.10 crores from PM's National Relief Fund.
- Rs.16.51 crore financial aid received from other States.
- External assistance from 51 countries. Overwhelming international response with men & material
- Total Grants allotted: Rs.13.00 crore from CM Relief Fund & Rs. 153.85 crore from Gujarat Govt's budget.
- In 10 Earthquake hit districts, the preliminary report indicates 6698 schoolrooms collapsed and 17033 damaged, against the total number of 47181 schoolrooms. Total estimated loss: Rs.146.97 crore.
- As on 9.2.2001, 3,88,987 blanket/sheet, 64,272 tents, 5000 tons GI sheets and 1,05,000 plastic sheets received by Gujarat Govt.
- 12 special teams of veterinary doctor deployed and 2006 animals treated.
- State Government decided to provide grass at free of cost for 30 days @ 4 kg per day per cattle in entire Kachchh and villages of other affected areas.
- Special officers appointed at important places for allocation of relief material
- Relief material like food, clothes, medical supplies, distilled water and such items are not required after 9th February 2001 by the State Government. The State Government would accept shelter material such as tents and blankets.
- Assistance provided by the State Government to affected families :
- Death Relief 1111 cases Rs.9.71 crore
- Cash doles paid 414784 families Rs 23.84 crore
- Household kits paid 156705 families Rs.14.58 crore

- Gujarat Housing Board started allotment of houses to the earthquake-affected families, and 5 families benefited on the basis of declaration provided by them.
- Gujarat Government issued a Press Note containing resettlement and reconstruction for the devastating earthquake victims who were rendered homeless.

## IMPACT:

A severe Earthquake of the magnitude of 6.9 at Richter scale occurred at 8.46 A.M. on 26th January 2001 with epicenter at 20 K.M. NorthEast of Bhuj. Its impact has been felt in various parts of the Country. Gujarat has been affected very severely.

## IMD - Report:

• As per the latest report of the IMD earthquake shocks are still continuing. 314 after shocks of magnitude 3.0 and above were felt till 0926 hours of 14/02/2001.

## DAMAGE:

As per information received from State Government of Gujarat, the provisional extent of damage( as on 13.2.2001) is as under: -

| S.No. | Districts      | Number of persons |         |
|-------|----------------|-------------------|---------|
|       | 2.03030        | Dead              | Injured |
| 1     | Ahmedabad      | 750               | 4,040   |
| 2     | Amreli         | 0                 | 5       |
| 3     | Anand          | 1                 | 20      |
| 4     | Banaskantha    | 32                | 2,770   |
| 5     | Bharuch        | 9                 | 44      |
| 6     | Bhavnagar      | 4                 | 45      |
| 7     | Gandhinagar    | 8                 | 241     |
| 8     | Jamnagar       | 119               | 4,930   |
| 9     | Junagadh       | 8                 | 89      |
| 10    | Kachchh (Bhuj) | 15,977            | 136,048 |
| 11    | Kheda          | 0                 | 28      |
| 12    | Mehsana        | 0                 | 1,339   |
| 13    | Navsari        | 17                | 52      |
| 14    | Patan          | 34                | 1,695   |

| 15 | Porbandar     | 9      | 90      |
|----|---------------|--------|---------|
| 16 | Rajkot        | 422    | 11,951  |
| 17 | Surat         | 46     | 190     |
| 18 | Surendranagar | 112    | 2,909   |
| 19 | Vadodara      | 1      | 270     |
| 20 | Sabarkantha   | 0      | 56      |
|    | Total:        | 17,549 | 166,836 |

### EXTENT OF DAMAGE

(Primilinary estimates - exact assessment is going on)

Human Population affected 1.59 crores

Cattle Death 20623

Houses Destroyed 159960 (Pucca), 148339(Kachcha) & 13889 (huts) Houses Damaged 399346 (Pucca), 295061 (Kachcha) & 31395 (huts)

## Damage:

Personal Properties Rs. 387 crore

Household Properties Rs. 11195 crore

Public Utilities Rs. 600 crore

Public Infrastructure & Amenities Rs. 1080 crore

Industrial establishment Rs. 5000 crore

Commercial establishment Rs. 3000 crore

Total estimated loss of damage Rs. 20,875 crore

#### **MANAGEMENT**

- Immediate response on 26th January 2001 afternoon (Republic Day Parade ended at 12 Noon)
- Krishi Control Room (NDM) activated and functioning round the clock. Coordinating with all Central/External relief efforts in close association with Govt. of Gujarat.
- Prime Minister convened emergency cabinet meeting at 5 PM on 26th January and reviewed initiatives of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC). The three Services Chief, who were present also, briefed the Cabinet. PM announced immediate release of Rs.500 crores
- Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) under the Chairmanship of Home Minister was constituted on 30th January 2001.
- Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) held meetings on 30th January, 2nd February, 7th February and 13th February and reviewed the relief and rescue measures
- A 37 member National Disaster Management Committee headed by Prime Minister

constituted.

- Cabinet Secretary immediately activated the NCMC and regular meetings held.
- National Crisis Management Committee meets regularly and puts in place specific and detailed sectoral initiatives. Chief Secretary Gujarat was offered during the telephonic conversation, the services of officers of GOI especially those who hail from Gujarat cadre.
- All Central Ministries / Departments, PSUs were requested to involve their machinery for providing possible assistance.
- Chief Secretaries of Rajasthan & Maharashtra were also informed of the magnitude of the earthquake and requested to send food materials and blankets to Gujarat.
- Prime Minister directed Cabinet Secretary to respond with the overriding urgency and report the steps taken during the emergency meeting of the Cabinet convened at 5 PM.
- Home Minister rushed to Ahmedabad immediately contacted Chief Secretary and after giving his assessment instructed the need to rush medical teams, medicines and other relief material.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister and Union Ministers of Defence, Agriculture, Power, Telecom, Urban Development, Health and I&B also visited to make on the spot assessment of relief & rescue.
- On clearance from the Indian Air Force on the suitability of runway at Bhuj to receive light Aircrafts. A AN-32 Air craft took off from Palam at 7PM along with Additional Relief Commissioner with the team of 24 Doctors with medical equipment and medicine, engineers of DoT with SAT-Phones and IMD officials with seismographic equipment. Later, Chief Secretary of Haryana and officials of Delhi Administration were tasked to collect large number of blankets and relief materials to be despatched to Bhuj.

### PUBLIC ACCESS AND INFORMATION SHARING

- Gujarat Government have dedicated Help Lines and control rooms in operation (Help Lines 02712- 51911-20)
- Gujarat Bhavan at Delhi opened counter to receive relief materials (Phone 4673661 & 4671881)
- Krishi Control room telephone lines responding round the clock (Phone lines 3389453,3383476, 3385574)
- Krishi Control room (NDM) website http://www.ndmindia.nic.in is being updated regularly. Gujarat Government also providing information through their websites http://www.gujaratindia.com and www.gujaratinformatics.com.
- Secretary (Agriculture) briefing the media regularly wherein the updated situation report is provided.
- Priority relief requirements of State Government being informed regularly to press through press briefing
- Press carrying all important telephone numbers, help lines etc,
- Counters opened at New Delhi Railway Station at Ajmeri Gate side for receiving relief materials for free transport to Gujarat
- To coordinate Air lifting of men and relief material a dedicated line operated at Air force control area (Telephone No. 5661788)

## ACTION TAKEN BY VARIOUS CENTRAL MINISTRIES/DEPARTMENTS

#### CIVIL AVIATION

# Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- Satellite based communications restored immediately on 27.1.2001.
- Kandla airport activated for helicopter operations on 27.1.2001 and for small aircraft on 28.1.2001.
- · Airport charges waived off for all relief flights.
- Power supply restored through back-up arrangements at Kandla airport.
- · AAI and its employees donated Rs. 2.25 crores to the PM's National Relief Fund.
- Upto 5.2.2001, 78 civilian flights including 49 international flights and 188 military air crafts with relief material handled at Ahmedabad airport.

## Air India & Indian Airlines

- Transportation facilities extended for relief material from abroad.
- Request to all airlines for transportation of relief material from all over the world particularly points not covered by Air India.
- 99 additional flights to Bhuj/Ahmedabad/Jamnagar operated till 5th February.
- 36 additional flights planned from 6th 9th February
- Free air transportation of relief materials weighing 516 MTs.
- Free handling facilities to charter flights bringing in relief materials from the State Governments and foreign Governments.
- Rescue teams with tracking dogs from US, UK, Spain, France and Italy specially flown to help in the evacuation of victims.
- 10,000 fleece blankets contributed by the Indian community in Indonesia flown by Air India from Jakarta to Mumbai on 31st January & 1st February.
- Private airlines operating additional flights to Bhuj and Rajkot for ferrying relief materials.

## Private/Foreign Airlines

- 32 civil and military aircraft already landed in India bringing relief materials.
- One IL 76 freighter aircraft offered by Turkmenistan Airlines and three B737 freighter aircraft offered by Blue Dart, which have been placed at the disposal of Indian Air force.
- Private airlines also operating additional flight to Bhuj and Rajkot and have ferried relief materials.

## **DEFENCE**

## **ARMY**

· 22,700 Troops deployed in Bhuj and Ahmedabad Sectors. 3 columns of ex 68

Engineers Regiment employed for technical advice on buildings rendered unsafe.

Major equipment deployed

JCB/Dozers - 53, Tipper - 20, Compressor - 12, Generators - 30, Water Tanks- 153, Water Supply Equipment - 34, Ambulance - 15, INMMARSAT - 4, Tents - 2835, Blankets- 6600, Tarpaulin - 2000, Gloves & Masks - 5000/1350, Stretchers - 150, Oxy/Acetelene Cylinders - 70, Water purification - 2, Gas Welding Plants - 6, Water Bowsers - 42. Works Equipment - 31 Nos.

- 20 Nos. of 3-Ton capacity vehicles deployed at the disposal of Civil Administration.
- Surgeries performed 11,768, Medical aid given 16,125 patients
- Evacuations (serious patients) 484, rescued 478, dead bodies recovered 2308
- Till 12th February, 2001, 39 sorties of IL -76/AN-32 carried a total load about 846 tonnes
- 39 tented colony (relief camps established at Kanthawadi, Kotadi, Nigal, Mandul & Kumbani)
- 536 villages visited by relief team.
- Civil Military Liaison Cell established at Police HQrs, Daily Conference held to coordinate relief effort & deployment of resources.
- 125 out of 127 houses which were affected by earthquake at AF Station Bhuj have been searched till date.

### AIR FORCE

- 6 IL-76, 18AN-32, 4 AVRO, 3 DORNIER and 16 helicopters pressed into service
- Till 12th February, 2001 957 sorties carrying relief materials, tentage, X-Ray Machine, cooking oil, water bottle, food, rescue teams, passengers, casualty and familily evacuation etc from various parts the country.
- Bulk of the relief material and equipments air lifted from the various air bases
- 700 people evacuated
- Total tonnage of loads carried so far is over 4890 tonnes approximately

## **NAVY**

- 30 men team with INMARSAT despatched to Porbandar
- INS Ganga carried relief material for Kandla and two Naval ships converted into hospital ships where surgeries were performed. Twins born. 115 patients treated in ships hospitals. 302 patients treated at other Navy hospitals/clinics.
- Disaster management and surgical team sent to Bhuj with medical equipment
- A Dornier sorty operated between Mumbai and Kandla with 960 ltrs of fresh water.
- Damage assessment carried out by Naval Officer Incharge in all ports
- Survey of channel in the Gulf of Kachchh undertaken by INS Nirdeshak
- · Assistance provided for removal of dead bodies at Kandla and Gandhidham
- So far Navy has carried a total of 45.8 tonnes of food and medicines in addition to 30.00 tonnes of cooked food/Naval rations and 200.00 tonnes of rations from Government of Maharashtra
- Chief of Naval Staff visited Naval Units on 4.2.2001
- All Naval personnel including civilian have donated 1 day's salary in aid of earth quake

## victims

- The Navy has adopted Moda village in Jamnagar district
- · Naval operation discontinued with effect from 09.02.2001.
- NCC carried out the task of debris removal, removal of dead bodies, shifting injured people to hospitals, distribution of food, water and relief supplies. Setting up of tents and blood donation. 3.00 tonnes of food items supplied to the of earthquake victims. Also donated 6,000 blankets, 8000 durries, and 550 tents to the affected people.

#### HOME MINISTRY:

#### PARA MILITARY FORCES

26.1.01 - Immediately released for rescue & relief

RAF 4 COYs (1 Ahmedabad & 1 Bhuj)

CRPF 1 COY (Ahmedabad)

BSF 4 COY (Kachchh)

SSB 6 COY (3 Bhuj & 3 Jamnagar)

27.1.01

RAF 2 COYs (Bhuj)

BSF 4 COY s (Gandhidham/Bhuj Ahmedabad)

CISF 12 COYs (Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Kandla, Mehsana)

## At present - 47 COYs available

- CISF deployed team of 10 officers under DIG(Fire) at Bhuj with Hydraulic cutters
- CISF has deployed 17 companies at Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Morvi, Rajkot, Surendranagar and Kandla
- · Specialized rescue equipment with 4 officers & 16 firemen sent to Gujarat from Delhi
- · CISF established wireless network between Delhi & Kandla, Bhuj. Ahmedabad
- CRPF established wireless stations at Adohi, Bimsar, Rapar
- BSF: Medical cover to 2702 persons. Rescued alive 47 persons. Providing water, dry ration, food packets, fresh vegetables.

## CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS:

- IPCL decided to donate Rs. 3 crore worth polythene films. IPCL employees donated Rs.25 lakhs to the CM's Relief Fund.
- 6000 blankets sent to Relief Commissioner, Ahmedabad.
- Provided Fire Tender, Engg. Equipments and operating crew, gas cutting equipments.
- Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India rushed critical medicines on 27th January, 2001.
- Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association rushed their members to the quake affected areas with supplies of life saving drugs, IV fluids, IV antibiotics, other injectible antibiotics, injectible pain killers etc. IDMA has contributed medicines/materials worth Rs. 1 crore.

Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited

- A Team of Senior Officer rushed to Kandla on 27th Morning to assess the damage to the Plants
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in full swing
- According to the preliminary estimates reconstruction and rehabilitation will cost around Rs. 50-60 crores

#### COAL:

Coal India Limited / Neyveli Lignite Corporation / Singareni Collieries:

- A medical team consisting of 5 doctors and 7 para medical staff rushed to Ahmedabad from Nagpur on 30th January, 2001 alongwith medicines worth Rs. 1.00 lakh, surgical equipments and 5000 blankets worth Rs. 12.00 lakh. Heavy engineering materials were also sent for relief operations.
- JCB pay loaders 3, PC 200 Shovel 1 and Crawler mounted Bulldozers 2 alongwith 10 personnel and 10 small tents were sent from New Delhi to Gandhidham
- Donation to PM's Relief Fund from the employees/Unions: CIL Rs.12 Crores, NLC Rs.2 crores, SCCL Rs.1.4 crore.

# **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:**

- JS (Coordn.) was appointed as Coordinator in MEA to liaise with NDM committee and to handle all enquiry from the Indian Missions abroad, and the foreign missions in New Delhi.
- Missions were advised that flight clearance request be sent directly DGCA/Air HQrs.
- Arrangements made for issue of 15 days visa at the entry point without any delay to the relief teams arriving from foreign countries.
- Missions were advised to publicise NDM web site.
- Senior Officer deputed to assist Gujarat Government at Ahmedabad.
- MEA website has provided a hyper link to PMO website for contributions to the PM's Relief Fund.

#### FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION:

- One lakh tonnes of foodgrains Wheat ( 80,000 tonnes), Rice (20,000 tonnes) allotted
- Advance release of 10,000 tonnes of levy sugar to the State
- Ready-to-eat food packets weighting over 37 tonnes airlifted on 27 29, Jan. 2001.
- 95,000 MT of free food grains allowed to be diverted by the State from allocation earlier made for food for work to meet immediate relief
- Rs. 5 Crores contributed (FCI-2, CWC-2, BIS-1). Employees of the Ministry are donating 1 day's salary.
- Govt. of Gujarat lifted 2945 MT wheat and 479 MT rice against special allocation for earthquake relief.

• Community kitchen & lungar organised by NGOs & Socio-religious organisations running in affected areas

#### **HEALTH**

- Regular monitoring of medical arrangements at the DGHS Hqrs.
- Team of Doctors from Government hospitals deployed right from first day alongwith medical equipments and supply
- Public Health Specialist sent from NICD & NIMP deputed to prevent outbreak of any possible epidemics. At present 74 officers / officials which include medical / para-medical and other supporting staff of various institutes joined the Disease Surveillance Cell established at Bhuj on 5.2.2001.
- Serious injured patients flown to Mumbai/Ahmedabad for treatment
- Overwhelming response from private hospitals and NGOs.

### MEDICAL AID

- Rs 5.7 crores of medical supplies sent to affected areas. X-Ray machines including portable X-Ray and other medical equipments rushed to affected areas.
- 64 Doctors with Ambulances sent from various Delhi hospitals to affected areas.
- Emergency medical supplies of antibiotics, disinfectants, IV fluids, ORS packets and surgical materials and disinfectants sent in adequate quantities
- Mental health experts from NIMHANS and AIIMS inducted at a short notice
- Distributed medical supplies to NGOs, Medical supplies shared with army doctors for treating patients.
- As reported by Emergency Medical Relief Wing of DGHS (on 12.2.2001), in the 24 affected districts, 457 specialist doctors, 1925 medical officers, and 4686 para-medics are working.
- In Kachchh District, 49 hospitals, 37 primary health centres, 25 mobile ambulances, 231 specialist doctors, 216 doctors from other countries, 307 medical officers, 1623 paramedics are working.
- 82 officers/officials of various institutes under Ministry of Health Family Welfare, GOI are working in Bhuj.
- A field laboratory has been set up since 6th February 2001.
- Field surveillance strengthened and chlorination ensured. Disinfection carried out effectively.
- A system of early diagnosis and prompt treatment of malaria cases established in all 5 worst affected talukas of the district.
- Epidemiological data about disease surveillance from the affected talukas for 12th February does not show any increase in the number of cases.
- Status Report from DGHS as on 12.2.2001:
- Measles vaccine administered to children under age group of five in different areas of Bhuj, by the 50 mobile teams along with 20 members from the Central team.
- · Three Central teams consisting of seven members each going daily to Rapar and

Bhachau with antibiotics, Chlorine tablets, Chloroquine tablets etc for treating the patients. They also conduct surveillance work for identifying the incidences of diseases.

- No new cases of Chicken pox have been detected except the 13 cases detected and isolated in Rapar. Guidelines to contain Chickenpox formulated and sent to the State Health Authorities through the team leader of Central team for implementation.
- The children isolated from the 25 reported cases of Measles in Jhuri Village, Bhuj Taluka.
- Team from NIMHANS visited various relief camps at Anjar and Bhuj town to have on the spot assessment of patients, psychological status of the survivors, and psychotropic medication was made available by the team.

## **FINANCE**

## Expenditure:

- · No cap on ways and means advance to State Governments
- · Relaxation of Overdraft Regulation Scheme.
- Rs.85 crores released from National Calamity Contingency Fund(NCCF).
- Rs. 500 crores financial assistance as ad hoc release of share in central taxes.
- · Rs. 20 crores sanctioned from PM Relief fund

#### Revenue:

- Additional special surcharge of 1% on tax payable by domestic companies levied for creating initial corpus of NCCF to mobilise tax collection of Rs. 350 crores.
- Additional surcharge of 2% levied on tax payable by non-corporate assessee to mobilise tax collection of Rs. 1300 crores
- 100% deduction for Income Tax purpose on donations made to chartiable institutions, trusts or funds registered with IT Department for providing relief to the victims of earthquake.
- 100% deduction on donation under PM/CM Relief Fund
- Relief material exempted from customs/excise duty.

#### **MINES**

- BALCO donated Rs. 17 lakhs as one day's salary of their employees to the PM's Relief Fund
- Geological Survey of India donated 225 tents.
- Hindustan Zinc Limited donated tents to accommodate 1000 persons. 1100
  mattresses and 1175 quilts, 120 dari, 3 diesel generators, 1 JCB excavators, dry food
  packets for 20,000 persons, One crane, 300 bed rolls, 1000 wollen Khes, and other relief
  materials.

#### **PETROLEUM**

#### Refineries

Koyali (IOC) - Normal operations continued

- Jamnagar (RPL) Shutdown on 26th Jan. due to power failure Pipelines
- Crude oil pipeline from Salaya, feeding Koyali/Mathura/Panipat refineries, resumed operations since 27th Jan after due checking.
- Product pipelines from Vadinar to Kandla & Kandla to Bhatinda under shutdown. Expected to resume operations on 3rd/4th Feb.2001. However, product availability not affected due to alternative arrangements made.

## Petroleum supplies

- Despatches resumed from Jamnagar by Rail on 26th Jan & by road on 27th Jan.
- Despatches resumed from Kandal on 27th Jan. by arranging manpower and DG sets from other locations.
- · Supplies to Kutch area supplemented from Sabarmati, Rajkot, Sidhpur, etc.
- Direct supplies of Kerosene resumed on 28th Jan.
- Of 60 Retail Outlets in Kutch, 56 are operating now.
- All 13 LPG distributors in Kutch are operating.
- Supplies made during 27th to 31st Jan 2001
- MS-724 KL, HSD-1727 KL
- SKO-754 KL, ATF-122 KL
- Rs.40 crores is being contributed by oil PSUs toward PM's relief fund.
- Supply of Diesel and Kerosene from 27th Jan to 1st Feb. 2001
- · Diesel 20.45 lakh litres
- Kerosene 8.62 lakh litres
- 5 villages being adopted by five Navratana oil PSUs
- An additional quota of 450 lakh litres of Kerosene allotted.

# Utility items provided

- 3673 Petromax/Lanterns 200 Drums
- 13 water tankers 13 Durry
- 10000 utensils 209 Polythene sheets
- · 3538 blankets 550 helmets
- 11500 Litres mineral water 1090 mtr. Cloth 65 Tonne
- food items
- 1300 bedsheets 97 wollen jerseys
- 38 tents 11 trucks of clothes/
- 740 safety shoes medicines/grocery/
- 2300 socks containers
- 2000 plastic containers

## **POWER**

- Union Power Minister has taken special care and attention in the immediate restoration of power supply in affected areas.
- Electricity restored in all 45 damaged sub-stations, 255 damaged feeders restored and all 955 villages in Kachchh.
- DG sets: 19 large sets sent for utilisation of GEB at Bhuj/Anjar.

- · Normal load of 320 MW in Kachchh area has been restored.
- Manpower: 220 engineers/skilled operative staff positioned to assist at Anjar/Bhuj for restoration of supply. 20 doctors & 3 para medical staff of NTPC deployed.
- 41 truck loads of relief materials including plastic tents, blankets, bed sheets, food items and medicines despatched by POWERGRID & NTPC for Bhuj/Anjar.
- Community kitchen started at Anjar by NTPC and serving 300 people daily.
- Camp office of NTPC and Powergrid established to coordinate relief and rehabilitation at Anjar.
- Powered/NTPC together engaged in repair / recommissioning of 10 GEB major substations.
- · LT Transmission distribution materials supplied.
- Restoration of 220 KV PANANDRO-Anjar Tr. Line on 28.1.2001.
- A loan of Rs.100 crores sanctioned by PFC for reconstruction / rehabilitation of transmission and distribution system.
- NTPC agreed to provide working capital facility of Rs. 60 crores by deferring part bill payments for February and March 2001 against issue of unsecured bonds.
- · REC sanctioned a loan of Rs.100 crores to GEB.
- Under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP), Kachchh district will be adopted and made into a centre of excellence for sub-transmission, distribution and R & M.
- Minister of Power accompanied by Addl. Secretary and CMDs of NTPC & Powergrid visited the affected areas for assessment.
- Out of total 23167 pump sets in Kachchh area, 90 per cent have been engegised. Remaining 10 per cent badly affected.

### **RAILWAYS**

**Damages** 

Costs Track Rs. 35 crores

Signal & Telephones Rs. 15 crores

Electrical Rs. 7 crores

Misc. Rs. 3 crores

Total Rs. 60 crores

- Track
- Viramgam-Gandhidham Broad Gauge (BG)
- Gandhidham-Bhuj (BG)
- Viramgam-Okha (BG0)
- Palanpur-Gandhidham Metre Gauge (MG)
- Heavy damage to station buildings, station cabins, residential quarters, bridges in the affected sections
- Signalling equipments at 25 stations and Control communications on Viramgram-Gandhidham section damaged

### Restoration

#### **BG** Track

- Rajkot-Okha on 26.1.2001
- Viramgram-Samakhiali on 28.1.2001
- Wankaner-Navalakhi on 28.1.2001
- · Samakhiali-Gandhidham on 29.1.2001
- · Gandhidham-Kukma on 29.1.2001
- Kukma-New Bhuj on 3.2.2001

#### MG Track

- · Palanput-Kidiyanagar on 28.1.2001
- Kidiyanagar-Gandhidham on 31.1.2001
- Telecommunications Overhead alignment and control communication up to Gandhidham restored.
- Signalling-8 stations restored until 30/1/2001 At 13 stations block working restored until 1/2/2001 but these stations were working on non-interlocked basis. Final restoration at 17 stations dependent on completion of building activities.
- 19 special trains run for relatives & NGOs to Gujarat.
- 28 special trains run to evacuate from Gujarat and about 50,000 people evacuated.
- Wagons loaded with GI sheets, bulldozers and water tank wagons directed for relief work.
- · Movement of relief material ordered free of cost since 27.01.2001.
- All railway good sheds along the quake-hit areas offered for providing shelter for the people rendered homeless.
- Three medical relief trains moved to Ahmedabad, Udna and Palanpur with a team of doctors and medical equipment for evacuation of injured and medical relief. "Railway Helpline" medical camps set up to assist victims.

#### **ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

- Out of 650 Kms of national highways damaged 100 Kms severely damaged.
- Most of the minor/major bridges damaged.
- Surajbari Bridge damaged repaired on war footing and restored.
- National Highways made traffic worthy.
- · Control Room activated at Ahmedabad within a few hours of earthquake.
- Despite tragic demise of Shri Barhat, DE dealing with Surajbari Bridge in Bachau as a result of the earthquake, Surarjbari Bridge was made operational on 27th January itself for light vehicles.
- Diverted the machinery like trucks/dumpers, JCBs, loaders etc for relief work.
- On request, CEMINDIA despatched six concrete breakers alongwith Gas Cutters for Kachchh.
- Deputed 77 labourers working in NH 8A and NH8C alongwith 4 work assistants for earthquake relief work in Kachchh.

## SHIPPING:

• Berths No.1 to 5 at Kandla Port have developed major structural damage.

- · Berths No.6 to 9 are functional.
- Port has provided following equipment in Gandhidham:

Escalators 31 Payloaders 61

Cranes 36 Dumpers 376

#### Forlifts 2

- Cargo operations on relief vessels is being undertaken
- 12 cranes despatched by DG(Shipping) to Kandla to speed up relief work.
- Mumbai Port despatched 4 fork lift trucks.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT:**

- Rs. 25 lakhs released in favour of Helpage India for providing immediate relief to women, children and families rendered destitutes.
- Seven Mobile Medical Units(MMU) deployed by Helpage India, and 10 more MMUs committed.
- Rs. 2.00 crores earmarked for 100 Shelters each accommodating 50 persons for medical care, psycho-social counselling, food, etc.
- ALIMCO, Kanpur despatched (2000 items) aids and assistive devices for persons becoming handicapped due to injuries. Additional requirements to be met from Rs.2 crores provided under the scheme of purchase/fitting of aids & appliances (ADIP).
- Rs.15 lakhs to Animal Welfare Board of India for the relief of animals affected by the earthquake.

### **RURAL HOUSING**

- Additional allocation of Rs.250 crores over and above the normal allocation for constructing earthquake proof housing for BPL families in rural areas.
- Assistance of Rs.22,000 per dwelling unit proposed for the affected districts.
- HUDCO and other expert agencies will be consulted with respect to earthquake proof technology.
- CAPART earmarked Rs.5 crores initially to meet short and long term relief and rehabilitation activities. Immediately after the earthquake Rural Agro Research Development Society rushed with 10,000 tarpaulin sheets, 20,000 chatais for setting up tents for 10,000 families.

#### STEEL:

- Bhilai Steel Plant despatched to Gujarat 3 Excavators, 1 Dumper and 3 crewmembers on 27.1.2001. 10 Gas cutters and crewmembers despatched to Gujarat on 28 & 29.1.2001 from Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd & Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.
- Relief Teams deployed for clearing rubble from Multi storied shopping complexes at Adipur. More than 5000 tons debris removed till 5th February.
- · Rs.2.44 crore donated to PM's Relief Fund.

#### **TELECOMMUNICATION**

Telecommunication disrupted

Number of Exchanges (in Bhuj) Total Damaged Restored

## 147 147 145

- Total Lines 82,000
- Optical Fibre systems Bhuj-Bhachau-Rajkot 140 Mbps (damaged at Bhachau)
- Overload Exchanges started choking due to heavy traffic (12

# lakh calls/hr)

Estimated cost of damage Rs.200 crores

# On 26th January 2001

- Restoration of 2,000 lines Bhuj Exchange (CDOT-MBM).
- Restoration of 2,000 lines Gandhidham Exchange.
- Putting through two 34 MBps Microwave systems to Rajkot-

# Gandhidham-Bhuj.

- Installation of Optical fibre end-link (8mbps) at Bhuj.
- 2 INMARSAT terminals were rushed to site.
- Hot-lines provided from Ahmedabad/Bhuj to New Delhi for PMO, Cabinet Secretary and Krishi Control Room,
- To save Ahmedabad and Rajkot TAX from overloading additional channels were terminated in Local Exchange bypassing above two TAXs.

#### Restoration

- Exchange commissioned 145
- Free PCOs opened 103 (INMARSAT 23, Land-line 49)
- Help Lines have been opened at Bhuj, Gandhidham and Kandla).

## Hot Lines provided - 43

- Optical Fibre links restored All 13 SDCAs
- Satellite Phones 50
- 4 VSATs in closed user group have been provided in Rapar.
- 2 MCPC VSATs restored.
- Transmission systems added for relief 96 stream of 2 Mbps.
- · Requirements of State Government and other agencies were fulfilled.
- Cellular Mobile Phones Services restored.
- In Bhuj, both the main exchanges are functional. Gandidham all three main exchanges functional. Mundra, Mandavi, Nakhatrana, Dayapar(Lakhpat), Rahpar, Naliya Exchanges functional. In Anjar E-10B RLU functional.
- STD service working satisfactorily in all Talukas, including Bhuj.
- In Bhachau Taluka, 256 port exchange is commissioned in Tent due to total damage.
- Internet Service restored at Bhuj.
- Helplines started functioning at Bhuj, Gandhidham and Kandla.
- Exchanges at all Taluka headquarters restored.

### **URBAN DEVELOPMENT:**

• BMTPC sent 3 structural engineers, 3 architects and 1 geologist for making preliminary damages, on 29.1.2001.

- CMD, HUDCO met Chief Secretary, Gujarat and offered financial and technical assistance by HUDCO on 30-31st January, 2001.
- Union UD Minister advised all Chief Ministers drawing their attention to the disaster prepared measures already communicated to them in May, 1998.
- Rapid Damage Assessment Survey Team visited affected area on 5th February.
- HUDCO proposes to adopt a few model villages and bastis for comprehensive development.
- HUDCO is setting up field project management offices in Bhuj and Anjar.

#### WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Being nodal Department for UNICEF and CARE activities in India, these organisations were requested to send their representatives.
- · On the report of team officers sent to Ahmedabad, the Department decided as under:
- Approval to permit operationalisation of 24 ICDS projects during 2001-2002 to universalise the ICDS in the State.
- · Additional grant of Rs. 7.38 crore for newly sanctioned projects initiated.
- Distribution of ready to eat food in 15 most affected ICDS blocks for next 3 months through WFP / CARE.
- UNICEF requested to deliver 15 vehicles for use by ICDS blocks.
- Approval conveyed for purchase of utensils @ Rs.2000 per anganwadi centre in 15 worst affected ICDS blocks.
- 200 creches proposed to be opened.
- Proposals for opening 50 short stay homes, 10 working women hostels, release of Rs.50 lakh under NORAD scheme and Rs. 20 lakh under Scheme of General Grants-in-aid under consideration.
- Rs. 75.60 lakh released for construction of 10 hostel building for working women and a day care centre.
- Rs. 5.00 lakh grants-in-aid released to NGOs for setting up 20 temporary working women hostels.
- Rs. 112.50 lakh released for 50 short stay homes for women and girls who have no social support system.
- Rs. 50.00 lakh released for training of poor women on traditional/non-traditional basis.
- Rs. 20.00 lakh released as grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations in the field in the Women and Child Development.

### YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

• Ministry despatched Executive Director Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Joint Secretary, Youth Affairs to Gujarat to immediately develop a relief programme for Youth Volunteers

#### STATE GOVERNMENTS & UTs

- · Relief assistance given both in cash & kind from various State Governments liberally.
- Food, blankets, medicine, medical personnel, water, tankers and equipments, etc sent by various State Governments/UTs directly also.
- CM's relief fund has received a donation of 31.74 crores from PM's Relief Fund and from other States/individuals and firms.
- · Assam: Rs. 5.00 lakh donated from CM's Relief Fund
- · Andhra Pradesh: (I) Rs. 5.00 crores donated from CM's Relief Fund
- (II) 4420 woolen blankets, 1381 sweaters, 5.00 tonnes medicines, 27.155 tonnes food material, 1020 water bottles, 20,000 water pouches, 120 petromax lights, 147 tents and 21 shamianas and 30.00 tonnes food/other materials worth value of Rs. 67.12 lakhs also donated in kind.
- (III) A team of 4 doctors and medicines sent to Ahemadabad and Bhuj
- (IV) 12 Police communication experts and 15 HAM operators with eqiupments working at Ahmadabad and Bhuj
- (V)Two special trains left Ahmadabad and Gandhidam with 40.00 tonnes of relief material and 1000 people/volunteers
- (VI) A convoy of 15 lorry loads of rice despatched to Ahmedabad/Bhuj
- Delhi Rs.1 crore from CM's Relief Fund. Sent 85 tonnes of poles and zinc sheets.
- Donation of 2 month salary by Cabinet Ministers and 1 month salary of MLAs
- CM Relief Fund received Rs. 52.18 lakh and 12.50 US \$
- 5000 blankets, 5000 tarpaulins, 2000 sweaters donated
- 6 bulldozers, 25 JCBs, 3 tipper trucks sent to Gujarat
- Medicines worth Rs. 27.00 lakh, 30.00 tonnes food items, water purifier tablets worth Rs. 40,000 sent
- · Delhi Vidut Board sent material worth Rs. 65.00 lakh
- MCD sent 29 medical teams with medicines
- 22 member team with cutting tools for rescue operations were sent which has come after completing task
- Delhi Police collected Rs. 1.44 crore and DVB Rs. 1.03 crore for earth quake affected people
- · Goa: Sent 2 trucks of blankets
- Haryana: Haryana Government adopted 15 villages in Rapad Block of Bhuj District in Gujarat. 2 more villages has been identified for adoption. An advance relief team comprising Speaker of Haryana Vidhan Sabha, and other State/Central Officials from Haryana reached Rapad Block on 1.2.2001 to coordinate the efforts and identify the requirement of the area. 956 persons for Relief work, 259 relief trucks, 51204 blankets, 7220 durries and 500 carpet blankets, 73127 utensils, 4234 tents, 12600 sq. ft. Polythene covers, clothes, food items, buckets/mugs, torches, lanterns, kerosene / diesel, candles & matches, other items, sent upto 04/02/2001. The value of material sent is 2.75 crores.
- Himachal Pradesh :Donated Rs. 51.00 lakh from CM Relief Fund.
- J&K: Sent 30,000 blankets.
- Jharkhand :Donated 30 packets of bandage materials.

- Karnataka: Cash assistance of Rs.2 crores. 8500 blankets (worth Rs.30 lakhs), 2 truck loads of ready made dress, 4.5 tonnes noodles (worth Rs.5 lakhs), 10 gas cutters, medicines worth Rs 30 lakh and a team of 22 doctors, 7 nurses and 2 HAM operators.
- Kerala: Rs. 2 crores donated by State Govt. A special fund viz. "Chief Minister's Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund constituted. So far Rs.2 crores received as donation to this Fund. State Government employees and employees of PSUs requested to contribute their One days's salary. State Ministers decided to contribute their One month's salary. Rs. 25 lakhs sanctioned for purchasing Blankets and tenting material. Official team comprising Senior State Government Officers, the State Health Minister visited the affected areas. An official Medical team is in Gujarat for relief operations from 28.1.2001
- Madhya Pradesh: Contributed Rs. 2.25 crores, 31,490 blankets, 1020 Home Guards, 239 doctors, 102 Nurses, 116 Paramedical personnel, 15 ambulances, one IC unit, Rs.5.50 lakh surgical/medical equipment, Rs.92.16 lakh medicines, Rs.1.38 crore food grain, 55,400 food packets, 1,00,400 clothes, Rs.16.70 lakh utensils, 3650 tarpaulins, 1482 tents, 1247 relief workers and 34 heavy equipments, 30 JCB machines & 10 gas cutters. Rs.43.50 lakh other materials.
- · Maharashtra: Rs. 5 crore donated from CM Relief Fund.
- Total 320 truck loads of essential commodities comprising bread, atta, rice, pulses, sugar, milk powder, mineral water, biscuits sent and distributed to Bacchav, Bhuj and Ahemadabad.
- 9 truck loads of firewoods despatched to Gujarat.
- 1 tanker of kerosene despatched to Bhachau Taluka.
- Anti-biotics, salines, ORS, blood bags, medical equipments & surgical items like gausecotton, bandages etc. worth Rs. 1.00 crore & X-Ray machines are sent to Bacchav, Bhuj & Ahemadabad.
- Dispatched 49,381 blankets, 54,366 chaddars, 16,267 sarees. 5,000 tents.
- 13 Mobile Cranes, 11 JCBs, 2 gas cutters, 4 Rock breakers, 3 concrete breakers, 38 Tippers & Trucks, 4 bulldozers, 7 loaders, 11 excavators, 7 trucks, 8 Jeeps, sent from the Maharashtra State are working in egathquake affected areas.
- $\cdot$  3000 Utensils, 5000 Tin Sheets & 350 tents supplied to affected areas of Gujarat State.
- 237 Homeguards, 210 civil defence volunteers doing rescue operations in Bacchav Taluka
- 235 medical officers, 3 anesthetists, 22 Ayurvedic Doctors, 4 Psychiatrics, 9 Surgeons & Para-Medical Staff of 12 persons are working in earthquake affected areas.
- 125 Engineers & Operators are working in earthquake affected areas.
- 7 ambulances are working for patients.
- 664 patients are under treatment in various hospitals of the State of Maharashtra.
- 9 Senior Officers & 29 supporting staff are deputed to Bacchav (Bhuj) for coordinating relief work.
- Staff of Fire Brigade, 500 conservancy staff of BMC & 3000 personnel from Solid Waste Management of BMC & a team of 15 personnel of TMC, Fire Brigade with tender are working in affected areas.

- 1 PSI, 1ASI, 13 Policeguards, 1 Mechanic, 1 Tailor are working at Anjar.
- Pest Control Staff alongwith Pesticides & Germicides are sent to Bhuj district.
- Electricity in Bacchav Taluka restored with the help of Manpower &\* material worth Rs. 1.5 crore supplied by the MSEB. The Government of Maharashtra also provided Rs. 50.00 lakhs for the restoration work.
- 2 Medical teams & 1 Mobile Dispensary of BMC despatched to affected areas of Bacchav.
- 1,000 canvas tarpoline (110 despatched), 500 masks & 300 Helmets supplied for the relief operation at Bacchav.
- Manipur: Rs. 2 lakhs from CM's Relief Fund.
- Meghalaya: Rs. 10.00 lakh financial assistance to the earthquake victims.
- Orissa: 852 tents/camp beds, 2500 blankets, 20 doctors along with medicines and a team of NGOs has deputed to Gujarat
- Punjab: Donated 2,06,004 blankets, 2,632 tents, 3 truckloads of medicine, 7,000 Qtls foodgrains, 217 utensils, 50 heavy equipments and Rs. 26.80 lakh cash donated. Relief material also airlifted from AF air base in district Bathinda.
- The people of Muktsar district donated 11,800 blankets, 3500 khes, 500 Quintal of food material, 8500 pairs garments, medicines worth Rs. 1.00 lakh and 2000 ltr mineral water to earthquake affected people of Gujarat.
- Rajasthan: Donated Rs. 2.5 crores cash, out of which Rs.50 lakhs from CM's Relief Fund. Sent 24,000 blankets, 521 tents from RTDC and tents for 500 people from Hindustan Zinc Limited. 23 JCBs/Excavators, 25 cranes, 1 shawl, 5 Dumper, 5 loader and 54 Gas cutters, 4 turbo trailors, 4 earth movers, 1 teeper and One DG set sent. 40 medical teams comprising 80 doctors and 86 para medical staff sent. Medicines over Rs. 60 lakhs were also sent. 617 trucks of essential food item, clothes, blankets medicines etc sent to Bhuj. 14 water tankers and 55000 bottles of mineral water sent to Bhuj. 5000 torch cells, 300 petromax & 500 torches sent. Senior Officers of the State Government were also sent to coordinate relief assistance.
- Tamil Nadu: Rs. 5 crores from CM's Relief Fund. Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to release 1200 MT (One lakh Square meter) of AC sheets worth Rs. 1 crore through Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited, from the funds accrued to the Gujarat Earthquake Relief Fund.
- U.P.: Rs. 5.00 crore donated for affected people.
- Blankets worth Rs. 1.62 crore, medicines worth Rs. 50.00 lakh and 15 doctors/specialist sent to Gujarat.
- Sent medical personnel, 2 truck load of medicine, 520 tarpauline and 520 tents.
- West Bengal: Rs. 2 crore sanctioned. Despatched 50,000 pcs of woolen blankets from State Government Stock and additional 10,000 pcs from others, Rs. 20.00 lakh worth medicines and equipments, 50,000 pcs of tarpaulin.

## **EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE**

- International community responded generously and with alacrity.
- 44 countries & various international organisations sent rescue teams including sniffer

dogs, relief materials and mobile hospitals.

· Hospitals have been set up in Bhachau, Bhuj and Nalia.

## RECONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RELIEF INITIATIVES

- 1. \$300 Million Assistance announced by the World Bank (WB)
- 2. \$350 Million Assistance announced by Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- 3. Japan provides US \$ 2.3 million in addition to already released US \$ 0.7 million to PM's National Relief Fund, which is about 420 million Japanese Yen (about Rs.17 crore) which is additional to their active participation in relief and medical assistance.
- 4. DKK 16,950,000 worth Danish Humanitarian Assistance in kind (from IFRC, DanChur Aid, OCHA, EMOGC, Caritas)
- 5. CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM decided to adopt large clusters of villages for relief and reconstruction.
- 6. Major PSUs of the Government of India has also decided to adopt groups of villages for relief and reconstruction.
- 7. Reliance Group has adopted Anjar Town.
- 8. CARE committed upto US \$ 3.5 million relief assistance. CARE, Canada & Norway arrived in Bhuj with 2650 tents each accommodating 6-8 persons. 40 persons relief team engaged in relief work. FICCI-CARE alliance formed for Gujarat Rehabilitation Project to provide immediately temporary shelter, water/sanitation/electricity, quake resistant housing, construction of permanent social infrastructure (schools, clinics, anganwadi, tube wells), help to small business establishments and craftsmen. The Project selection in consultation with the Government of Gujarat.

## Press release of Government of Gujarat

The Government of Gujarat has issued following Press Release on 9th February, 2001 regarding requirements for Relief and Rehabilitation:-

"The Principal Resident Commissioner of Government of Gujarat at Delhi has thanked the people and the large number of organizations, which have risen in support of the earthquake affected people of Gujarat. Contributions have been received from hundreds of institutions, both Government and Non-Government, and from thousands of individuals, in the form of materials, which were required for providing medical aid, food, clothing, shelter etc., to the worst affected areas of Kutch District and other districts of Gujarat. The supplies received have been airlifted from Delhi by special IAF flights, mainly to Bhuj, and also transported direct by truck to Kutch District (Bachau, Anjar, Bhuj and Rapar) or through the Railways.

However, since the immediate need for food, clothes and medical supplies has been met, such items are no longer required. It has, therefore, been decided not to accept contributions of food, clothes, and medical supplies, distilled water and such items after Friday, the 9th February 2001. People wishing to contribute could do so by cheque to the GUJARAT CHIEF MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND, which enjoys benefit of 100% tax exemption under Section 80G. Shelter material such as tents and blankets would also be accepted.

However, people are advised to make very sure that organisations collecting in the name of earthquake relief are genuine and reliable organisations and not to make contributions to unreliable agencies.

Gujarat Govt.'s e-mail address (for queries on earthquake): equake@guj.nic.in. Gujarat Government web-site address: www.gujaratindia.com

(S.V. PATIL)

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