

Shimla-1 dated

12 5 NOV 2020

From

Commissioner Industries
Himachal Pradesh,
Shimla-1

To

✓ The Registrar General
Principal Bench, National Green Tribunal,
New Delhi

Subject:- Original application No. 134/2020, in the matter of News item published on 13.07.2020 in daily "India Today" titled "Massive fire engulf Vizage chemical plant , explosion heard , injuries reported".

Sir,

The above case is pending adjudication before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi and the same has been fixed for hearing on 26.11.2020.

In this regard, in compliance of the order passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on dated 26.07.2020 which relate to explosion in the Chemical plant of Visakha Solvents Ltd, Vizag in Andhra Pradesh. In Para 15 of this order, Chief Secretaries of the all the states were directed to hold meeting with concerned officers and stakeholders for taking preventive action, to avoid any such incidents. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on dated 15.10.2020 and the compliance report on behalf of the worthy Chief Secretary, to the Government of Himachal Pradesh is annexed as annexure -A for the kind perusal of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Encl. As above.

Yours faithfully,

Addl. Director of Industries
Himachal Pradesh
Shimla -171001

Endst. No as above:

Dated:

Copy to the following for information please:

1. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171002
2. The Addl. Chief Secretary (Ind) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171002.
3. The Secretary (S&T) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh

Addl. Director of Industries
H.P. Shimla-171001

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A.No. 134/2020

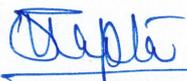
IN THE MATTER OF

News item published on 13.07.2020 in daily "India today" titled "Massive fire engulf Vizage chemical plant, explosion heard, injuries reported".

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF THE ACCOMPANYING REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF HP.

I, Sunita Kapta w/o Dr. Sushil Kumar age 55 years , occupation Government service and presently posted as Additional Director of Industries, Himachal Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under.

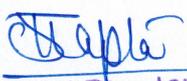
1. That the accompanying reply has been drafted at my instance. I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and it bears my signatures.
2. That the contents of this reply from Para 1 to 6 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as information has been derived from the official record.


DEPONENT
 Additional Director of Industries
 Himachal Pradesh

VERIFICATION:

I, the above Deponent do hereby affirm and state on oath that the contents of Para 1 to 2 of this Affidavit are true and correct. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Shimla on 25th day of November, 2020.


DEPONENT
 Additional Director of Industries
 Himachal Pradesh

attested

 Joint Director of Industries
 Himachal Pradesh

Annexure - A

Before the National Green Tribunal
Principal Bench, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 134/2020

Reply to compliance of order passed by the Hon'ble NGT dated 23 July 2020 in OA No. 134/2020, in the matter of News item published on 13/7/2020 in daily "India Today" titled "Massive fire engulf Vizage chemical plant, explosion heard, injuries reported", On behalf of Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

1. Himachal Pradesh is developing rapidly in all dimensions wherein it needs to promote safety for ensuring minimum risk and quick response to deal with the situation. In order to execute an effective incident response agencies must develop procedures that provide direction and guidance to agency personnel, from front line employees and management to data centre personnel, which outline their roles and responsibilities in the incident response process. State Level Incident Response Team (IRT) has been notified in the year 2017. Due to the constraints posed by COVID19, the actual mock exercise was not conducted this year. Normally, the mega mock exercises planned at the State level have a series of events like the Coordination Conference of the IRT members, Table Top Exercise, the Mock Exercise and the Debriefing session. Every year Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) in association with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organizes mega Mock Exercise on various hazards. Therefore, On-line Incident Response System Training Table Top Exercise (TTEX) on Chemical (Industrial) Disasters organized on 12th & 15th October 2020 by Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) Disaster Management Cell, Department of Revenue, Government of Himachal Pradesh, was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh on 15 October 2020 from 10:30 AM. A copy of Draft Report is enclosed herewith as **Annexure R-I**.

Signature
Principal Director of Industries
Himachal Pradesh

2. The Off- site Disaster Management Plans of the Industrial area of three Districts (Sirmaour , Solan and Una) have also been prepared by DM-Cell with support of UNDP , India and Disaster Management Institute .
3. Mock exercise for Industrial pockets of Baddi and Nahan have been conducted and for rest of the Industrial Areas, the mock Drills will be conducted soon and shared with the SDMA.
4. That directions have been issued vide this office letter no. Ind.Dev.F(36)Disaster/Vol-12007 Loose dated 29.09.2020 to all the General Managers DICs and Member Secretaries, SWCAs, Himachal Pradesh to take further necessary action in consultation with the DDMA/ DC of their District to ensure all preparedness measures regarding safety concerns relating to manufacturing, storage, transportation and handling of hazardous chemicals taking into account the contingencies that may arise in local Industrial Units, by ensuring proper communication with the Industrial Unit in accordance to the advisory issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs , National Disaster Management Authority vide D.O dated 7.08.2020. Instructions have also been issued to GM DICs to allocate land in judicious manner in the case of hazardous industrial units.
5. Orders of Hon'ble NGT dated 23.07.2020 passed in OA NO. 134/2020 along with the Draft report ON-line Incident Response System Training Table Top Exercise (TTEX) on Chemical (Industrial) Disasters. 12th & 15th October, 2020 organized by Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA), Disaster Management Cell, Department of Revenue , Government of Himachal Pradesh have been circulated amongst all the General Managers and Member Secretaries SWCAs Himachal Pradesh for further compliance.
6. In the major Industrial units established in District Sirmaur, Solan and Una, effective incident response measures taken by these districts are detailed here under :-

District Sirmaur -Fire Station has been established in Industrial Area Kala Amb, Sirmour, H.P. for which a fire tender has also been purchased with the financial assistance from IADA Kala Amb to facilitate the local industrial units in case of any fire hazard. Recently, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner , Sirmaur, H.P. where in the issue related to the usage of Hazardous chemicals etc. was presented by the Regional Office of HPSPCB

Signature
Regional Director of Industries
Himachal Pradesh

Paonta Sahib, being the regulatory authority to monitor and regulate the incidents related to Hazardous chemicals etc.

District Solan- In view of the serious results of fire accidents the roads of Industrial Area/Estate Chambaghat are declared as “No Parking Zone” for smooth plying of fire vehicles and to provide unhindered access to accidents spots (Office order issued by the District Magistrate Solan No. MA/20-4/99-12-8663 dated 22-07-2020). Recently a meeting of DDMA was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Solan H.P. Complete information regarding the Hazardous Industries was presented by the Regional Officer, HPSPCB Solan being the regulatory authority to monitor / regulate the Industrial units related to the usage of Hazardous chemicals etc. There are total 6 MAH& Hazardous category units operational at Baddi and these units have already prepared their onsite disaster management plans and onsite mock drills are also being conducted by the units.

District Una – There are approximately 30 such units in district Una using chemicals and units have been directed to conduct 3rd party safety audit within a period of 30 days. The Proposal for the creation of two fire posts at Mehatpur Industrial Corridor and Gagret – Amb – Jitpur Bheri corridor in Distt. Una has been sent to the Govt. in the month of November 2020 under Disaster Management Plan.


Additional Director of Industries
Himachal Pradesh



**On-line Incident Response System Training
Table Top Exercise (TTEX) on Chemical (Industrial) Disasters.
12th & 15th October, 2020**

THE REPORT

Draft

Organized by

**Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA),
Disaster Management Cell, Department of Revenue, Government of
Himachal Pradesh**

In association with:

**National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India**

Chapter - 1

Introduction & Background

Himachal Pradesh is developing rapidly in all dimensions wherein it needs to adhere safety for ensuring minimum risk and quick response to deal with the situation. In order to execute an effective incident response, agencies must develop procedures that provide direction and guidance to agency personnel, from front line employees and management to data centre personnel, which outline their roles and responsibilities in the incident response process. Keeping in view the importance of response, the State Govt. has notified its State Level Incident Response Team (IRT) in the year 2017, headed by the Chief Secretary as Responsible Officer. Sensitization regarding their roles and responsibility in accordance with Incident Response System, was conducted through various programme.

2. Due to the constraints posed by COVID 19, the actual mock exercise was not conducted this year. Normally, the mega mock exercises planned at the State level have a series of events like the Coordination Conference of the IRT members, Table Top Exercise, the Mock Exercise and the Debriefing session. Every year Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) in association with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organizes Mega Mock Exercise on various hazards. This year Table Top exercise was planned to be conducted in the State on Chemical (Industrial) hazard.

3. HPSDMA's Guidelines for on-site and off-site emergency plans for factories & industrial units in Himachal Pradesh was prepared by the DM-Cell and forwarded to the Industries Department in January 2020. Off-site Disaster Management Plans of identified Industrial area of three Districts have also been prepared by DM-Cell (districts Kangra and Kullu are remaining) with the support of UNDP-India & Disaster Management Institute-Bhopal. These were submitted for final approval in the 14th meeting of the State Executive Committee (SEC), and the SEC has directed that the respective districts will present their plan before the Committee in its next meeting.

4. It has been observed that some of the Industrial pockets such as Baddi, Solan and Nahan, Sirmaur have successfully conducted the Chemical/Industrial mock exercises in the recent past. It was now imperative to assess aspects of industrial safety through a State level mock exercise. The main objective of this year's exercise was to strengthen capacities of all responders involved in emergency management to adapt to an integrated and organizational structure in all the industrial district of the State and to check the efficiency of Off-site Disaster Management Plan developed for the three District (Sirmaur, Solan and Una) of Himachal Pradesh.

5. The programme was organized by HPSDMA in association of the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, District Disaster Management Authorities of the selected districts (Solan, Sirmaur, Una, Kangra and Kullu) with industries, stakeholder departments and agencies. The programme as per the process was conducted into two events i.e. orientation and sensitization of IRT members of State & Districts followed by a Table Top Exercise on Chemical (Industrial) Hazards through online mode. The event brought together more than 200 participants from the SDMA, DDMA, Industries, State Government stakeholder Departments, the District Administrations and industrial stakeholders.

Chapter – 2

Sensitization on Incident Response System

An Incident Response System (IRS) Training was held under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain, Member NDMA and Co-Chaired by Sh. R.D. Dhiman, Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh cum Member Secretary, HPSDMA on 12 October, 2020 from 10.30 AM onwards.

2. **Brig. Ajay Gangwar, Advisor (Ops & Comn), NDMA**, delivered the welcome address by welcoming Member, NDMA; the Additional Chief Secretary (Rev) to the GoHP; Sh. DC Rana, Director cum Special Secretary (Revenue-DM) GoHP, Maj Gen (Retd) V.K. Naik, Senior Consultant NDMA and all the State level and District level Incident Response Team members and representatives of various Stakeholder agencies. He highlighted that the Guidelines on the Incident Response System (IRS) which has been formulated and circulated among the stakeholder by NDMA to fulfil the requirement of Section 6 of the DM Act, 2005 in the year 2010 for effective, efficient and comprehensive management of disasters, with an aim to minimize loss of life and property by strengthening and standardising the disaster response mechanism in the country. He also emphasized the importance of Incident Response System for a multi hazard prone state like Himachal Pradesh.

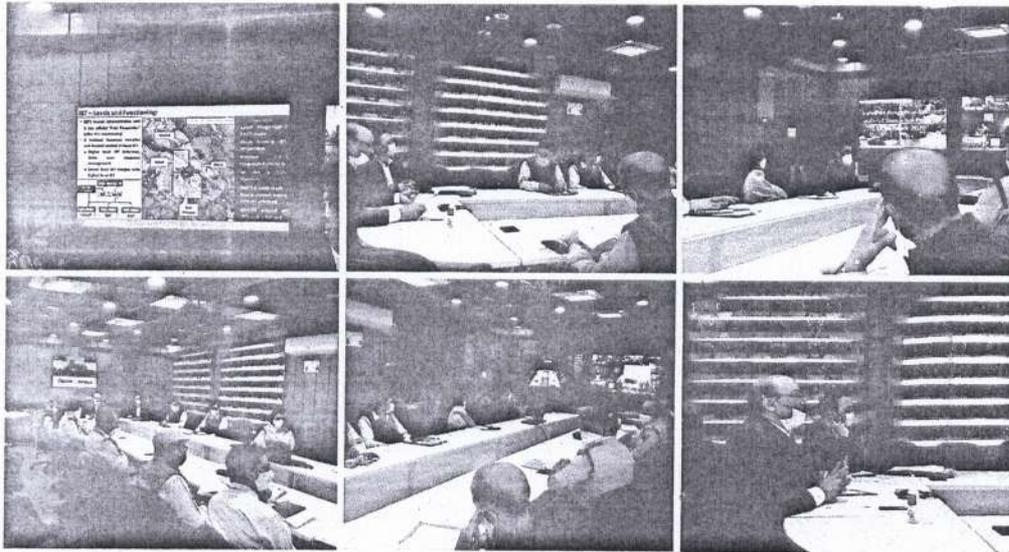
3. **Sh. RD Dhiman, Addl. Chief Secretary (Rev) to the GoHP**, during his opening remarks shared that the mock exercises are the best way to tests the adequacy and efficacy of Disaster Management & Response plans of the State and Districts against disasters and to find gaps in the resources, manpower, equipment, communication and systems. The Mock exercises give the opportunity to re-examine the existing roles and responsibilities of the stakeholder departments which can be altered accordingly to enhance coordination and synergize efforts of various Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) as per Plans. He also shared that the HPSDMA had notified the State Level Incident Response Team (IRT) in September 2017. Similarly, IRTs were constituted & notified by the all DDMA in the State. These IRTs are pre-designated at all levels; State, District, Sub-Division and Tehsil/Block. On receipt of early warning, the Responsible Officer (RO) will activate them. In case a disaster occurs without any warning, the local IRT will respond and contact RO for further support, if required and set coordination between the District, State and National level in activating effective response.

4. **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain, Member NDMA** during his opening address shared that disaster vulnerability has increased to the double fold with current COVID-19 pandemic, therefore the SDMA and DDMA shall plan their disaster management and responses taking into consideration the COVID-19 hazards for the responders and the affected. He also complimented the Government of Himachal Pradesh for notable institutionalization of the IRS at the State and District level, the structures of these IRTs are also shared with other states for their reference. He also advised that IEC activities on Chemical (Industrial) hazards may be enhanced for prevention of the risk of disaster.

5. After that the inaugural session, **Maj Gen (Retd) V.K. Naik, Senior Consultant NDMA** and his team from NDMA deliberated and introduced the participants to Indian Disaster Management System and background for development of Incident Response System (IRS) under the DM Act 2005 and the need & importance of IRS in effective disaster response and key features of National Disaster

Management Guidelines on IRS were also shared through the presentation. The session emphasized on the importance of IRS in not only disaster response but the DM planning for any kind of emergency and disaster like situation. The different action plans for immediate 24 hours, one day, one week, and so on were also discussed with the standard terminology when responding to any disaster like event.

6. In the end, discussions, questions and answers were facilitated by Maj Gen (Retd) V.K. Naik and Sh. DC Rana with an aim to familiarize participants on the importance of Incident Response System (IRS).



Chapter – 3

Table-Top Exercise**Table-Top Exercise on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh on 15 October 2020 from 10.30 AM onwards.**

Table-Top Exercise (TTEX) on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster was plan to be held involving State and District IRTs of identified Industrial pockets of District Kangra, Kullu, Sirmaur, Solan and Una. The TTEX was co-organised in association with the National Disaster Management Authority. The goal of the exercise was to support State/District authorities to ensure safety norms in identified Industrial pockets and mitigating the disruption over the State through the execution of a tabletop exercise, where off-site disaster management plan was exercised.

2. The target audience for the event included: Member of SDMA; Member of SEC; All Members of State RT ; Director (Industries); Director Fire Service; MS, HP State Pollution Control Board; Labour Commissioner; Chief Inspector of Factories; Local Commanders of Army, Navy, Air Force, NDRF & CAPFs; Commandant / Sr. Representative from SDRF; Director of Medical and Veterinary; MD, State Electricity Board ; Director, State Transport; Rep. of Telecom Service Providers; Director, HIPA; Director IMD, Shimla; Director IPR; IAG, Local NGO, UNDP reps, similar participation were expected for the all districts of the State. The event brought together more than 300 participants from State and District, and other stakeholder departments and organisations.

3. The TTEX started with welcome address by **Brig. Ajay Gangwar (Advisor (Ops & Conn), NDMA**, he welcomed Sh. Anil Khachi, Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh, Lt. Gen Syed Ata Hasnain Member NDMA, Sh. R D Dhiman, ACS (Revenue), Sh. DC Rana, Director cum Special Secretary (Revenue-DM), GoHP Maj Gen (Retd) V.K. Naik, Senior Consultant NDMA and all the participants from State Government, Deputy Commissioners of all participating districts of HP, Representatives of various Stakeholder departments and agencies. He explained that the Table-Top Exercise is discussion-based exercise and an emergency situation is simulated in a meeting room by discussing various scenarios and issues, with a goal of pinpointing problem areas and potential roadblocks in the disaster response. It can be used to enhance general awareness, validate plans and procedures, rehearse concepts, and/or assess the types of systems needed to guide the prevention of, protection from, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from a defined incident.

4. Presentation on 'Managing Industrial Disasters – Learnings, Legal Provisions and Institutional Mechanism of Disaster Management in Industrial Sector by **Sh. D.C. Rana, Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM), GoHP**. Sh. DC Rana illustrated that the Bhopal Gas Leakage 1984 was one of the worst chemical industrial disaster in the country and was a turning point in the response mechanism for industrial disasters. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 passed in the wake of Bhopal disaster, and the Rules framed thereunder for regulating hazardous industries provide for different institutions and authorities for industrial disaster management. However, the focus of legal policy after the passing of the Disaster Management Act in the year of 2005 is on the holistic approach to address disaster management aimed at reduction of risk. Other major chemical industrial disasters occurred in other parts of the country and various case studies of the chemical industrial incidents happened in the Himachal Pradesh were also shared with the participants.

5. He shared the State's industrial hazards profile from the HRVA report prepared by HPSDMA with special context to Environmental & Industrial Hazard Risk Assessment. Sh. Rana

also shared the legal provisions for the Industrial Disasters by mentioning out the provisions of the National Disaster Management Guidelines of NDMA on Chemical Disasters (April 2007) and Management of Chemical (Terrorism) Disasters Chemical Accidents (June 2009); Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response Rules, 1996 under these Rules the Centre as well as States are required to form crisis groups at the national, state, district and local levels. Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989, Section {41 (B) (4)} of Factories Act, 1948 which mandate the District Administration and Industrial units to prepare off-site and on-site emergency plans. The Institutional Framework to respond in the Chemical (Industrial) disasters was also shared with the participants. He ended his presentation by sharing the salient gaps with need of the capacity building and awareness and expected outcomes of the TTEX.

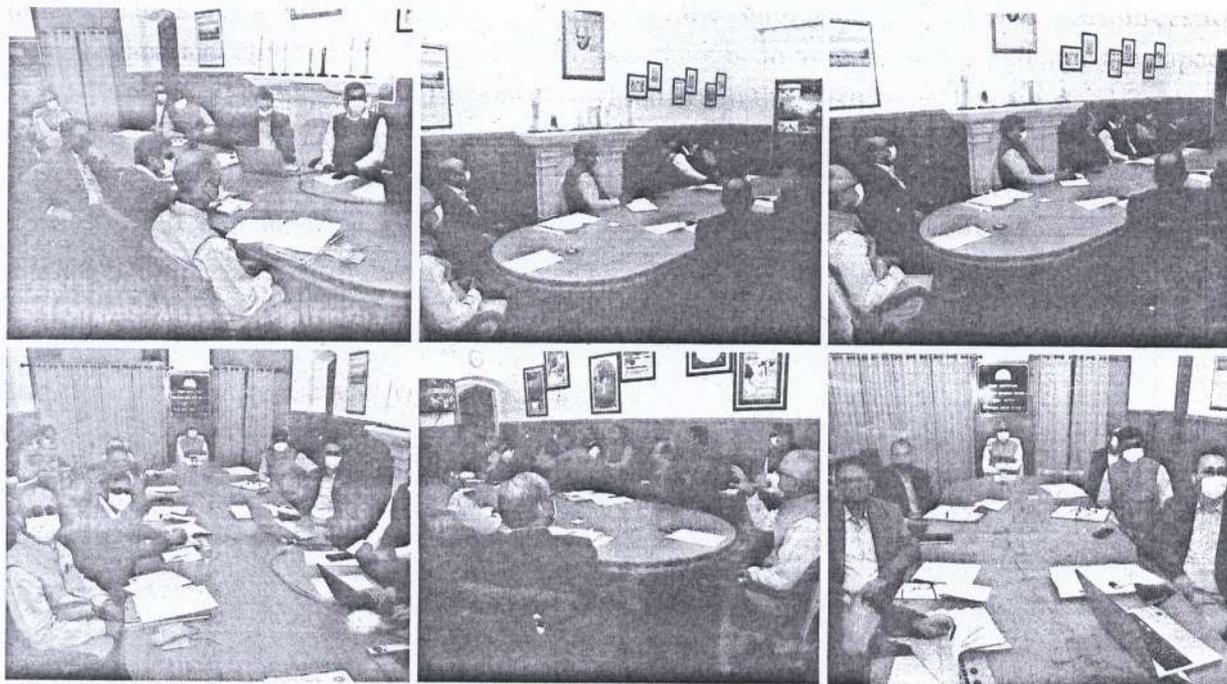
6. **Address by the ACS (Revenue), GoHP:** During his address, the ACS (Revenue) said that our State is expanding its industrial base, and we cannot rule out the fact that such accidents will not occur here. Meticulous preparation has to be done beforehand, involving all stakeholders, as that can enable us to deal with such incidents effectively. He added that the training conducted on 12 October 2020 became the path finding light to IRT's members of respective the districts, and that they have understood their role and responsibilities to deals with the situation in better way and Members of the State/Districts IRTs will review and discuss the actions they would take in this chemical/industrial emergency, testing their emergency plan in a relatively low-stress environment.

7. He apprised the Chair about the State Disaster Management Plan 2017 in which specific roles and responsibilities have been assigned to the Department of Industries, which is the Nodal Department / Primary Agency for managing industrial and chemical disasters. He also shared that the Off-site Disaster Management Plans of the Industrial area of three Districts (Sirmaur, Solan and Una) have also been prepared by DM-Cell with the support of UNDP-India & Disaster Management Institute-Bhopal. It has been observed that some the Industrial pockets such as Baddi and Nahan have successfully conducted the Chemical/Industrial mock exercises. It is now imperative to assess aspects of industrial safety through State/District level mock exercise on Chemical (Industrial) disasters. He also mentioned that the State Govt has allocated land to the Department of Industries for expanding its industrial base in the State. It is imperative to ensure that land is allocated in a judicious manner, especially in case of hazardous industrial units. The need of the hour is to strictly enforce legislations on land-use in the State.

8. **Sh. Anil Khachi**, Chief Secretary (Himachal Pradesh) during his address said that our State is establishing new industries, and we need to take cognizance of the imminent threats of chemical (industrial) disasters whose adverse impacts would encompass the entire biota. Therefore, legal provisions stated in various Acts need to be implemented in letter and spirit across the State. Chemical (Industrial) disasters may not be converted to fire only they may lead to water, air and soil pollution therefore proper monitoring mechanism may be establish in the State. He pointed out the that no proper data is documented about the industrial accident/disaster incidents in the State. Therefore, an urgent need for a proper reporting system for chemical storage/handling and accidents/release in a comprehensive common format.

9. Chief Secretary added that the Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) undertaken by the HPSDMA shows that there are only 8 Major Accident Hazard (MAH) Industries in Himachal Pradesh whereas many more Industries are being setup in the State, which shows that requirement of effective coordination between the HPSDMA and Department of Industries for mapping of all MAH

units/industries in the State. The Fire Department in the State lacks in specialized resources to deal with the Chemical (Industrial) Disaster. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance the capacity of Fire Department especially those fire stations which are in the vicinity of the Industrial Pockets with the resources and antidot agents for various hazardous chemicals being used in the industries. DDMA's and District Administration may play an important role, the inventory of specialized equipment and specialist manpower resources need to be identified and should be entered in India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) database which is functioning as a nationwide electronic inventory for various resources that may be deployed by an emergency manager during crisis situation. This database needs to be updated regularly and should be suitably integrated with the control rooms established at State/District Headquarters.



Stakeholders' Presentations**1. Presentation by MAH units about onsite Emergency Management Plans & issues of immediate concern.**

Two units of Indian Oil Corporation (Solan & Una) and Ruchira Paper Mill Ltd, Sirmaur has presented their respective On-site Disaster Management Plan in which - Identification & Assessment of potential hazards, Plant Risk Evaluation, Area Risk Evaluation, Plant Emergency Organisation, Notification & Communication system, Emergency Equipment & Facilities, Training & Drills, Regular tests & updates and Post-Emergency Procedures Emergency Level Classification, how major accidents will be dealt within the site and named of those who are authorized to take actions in accordance with plans in case of emergency. The industrial units have exhibited their firefighting equipment's in their respective presentations.

2. Presentation on Off-site Disaster Management Plan on Industrial Disasters (Deputy Commissioners, Districts - Sirmaur, Solan and Una).

The off-site Plan were presented by the Deputy Commissioners of Solan, Sirmaur and Una respectively. During the presentation each district has apprised the Chair about the general overview of industrial pockets situated in their respective districts and their current arrangements to deal the industrial disaster like situation. They apprise the chair that till date total 21 MAH Industries are established in the State and these MAH units have their On-site emergency plan prepared. The district and local crisis groups has already been constituted in the respective district, but regular meetings are not being organised.

3. Presentation on Preparedness for Chemical (Industrial) Disasters by Departments.

- i. Labour Department:** Shri A.K Sood, Deputy Director, (Factories), Labour Department discussed the role of Labour Department as regulatory department entrusted with responsibility of implementation of various Labour laws. He stressed that there is an urgent need to implement provisions of Factories Act, 1948 which regulates Health, Safety and Welfare of the workers working in the factories. He also shared the provisions under the Manufacturer Import and Storage of Hazardous Chemical Rules 1989 and Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 with reference to prevention of disasters. He provided the Detail of registered factories in Himachal Pradesh. He highlighted some of the constraints being faced by the department mainly to deal with the issues related to chemical disasters manpower with technical qualification is required in the department.
- ii. Health Department:** Dr. Bharat Bhushan Katoch, Director of Health Services made a presentation on preparedness for Chemical/Industrial Disaster by Health Department. He explained the Major industrial hazards are generally associated with the potential for fire, explosion or dispersion of toxic chemicals and usually involve the accidentally release of material from containment. Further he talked about 35 chemicals which are being used by the various chemical industries of the State and their respective form Liquids, Gases, Vapors, Mist, Toxic Fumes (CO/CO₂/Nitro Dioxide), Smoke and Products Combustion (Hydrocarbon & HCN) and their impacts on human body. Furthermore, he provided a snapshot of remedial step to be taken during the chemical disaster and his emergency response plan and medical services plan for industries.

- iii. Fire Department:** Sh. S.B. Negi, ADG (Home Guards & Fire Services) commenced his presentation by elucidating the role of department Fire Fighting; Search and Rescue Operations; Fire Audit; Issue Fire NOCs; Awareness generation and Mock drills. He highlighted provisions stated section 15 - A of Himachal Pradesh Fire Fighting Services Act, all building plans in respect of buildings of above 15 meters of height, industrial units and commercial establishments dealing with or using explosive and highly inflammable substances shall require No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Director Fire Services or Chief Fire Officer which may become useful instrument for prevention of chemical disasters in the State. He further discussed that 66 industries are using 35 type of chemicals which are constricted in the Kangra, Solan, Sirmaur and Una district of Himachal Pradesh. He apprised about the current capacity especially in these areas and gaps in the department.
- iv. Preparedness for Chemical (Industrial) Disasters by NDRF:** Sh. Ravi Kumar Pandita, Commandant 7th Battalion NDRF, Bathinda highlighted the role of NDRF and capacity for dealing with chemical emergencies. NDRF with the state-of-the-art equipment and with specialized training are competent to meet different kind of emerging challenges. Today, NDRF has 310 different types of equipment as per international standards for responding to various disasters. Efforts are being made to procure latest equipment to enhance our response. He appreciated Himachal Pradesh Government's step for creation of State Disaster Management Force (SDRF) and ensure that the NDRF is willing to provide training to the officer/officials of SDRF w.r.t to Chemical Disaster in addition to all other hazards in near future.

Salient Points from the discussions & TTEX

- i. The Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) undertaken by the HPSDMA shows that there are only 8 Major Accident Hazard (MAH) Industries in Himachal Pradesh whereas many more Industries are being setup in the State. HPSDMA and Department of Industries shall coordinate for mapping of all MAH units/industries in the State on the digital HRVA portal of HPSDMA.
- ii. There is a need to work out better and effective institutional mechanism, coordination and strategies for ensuring synergy in the various activities of different departments.
- iii. Fire Department lacks in specialized resources to deal with the Chemical Industrial Disaster. Therefore, there is an urgent need to enhance the capacity of Fire Department especially those fire stations which are in the vicinity of the Industrial Pockets with the resources and antidot agents for various hazardous chemicals being used in the industries.
- iv. The inventory of specialized equipment and specialist manpower resources must be identified and should be entered in India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) database which is functioning as a nationwide electronic inventory for various resources that may be deployed by an emergency manager during crisis situation. This database needs to be updated regularly and should be suitably integrated with the control rooms established at State/District Headquarters.
- v. Regular meetings of the State, District and Local Crisis Groups need to be organized to review the off-site emergency plan, monitor post-accident situation etc.
- vi. The DM-Cell has handed over the Industrial Plans to the Department of Industries. It must be ensured that the provisions stated under these plans are implemented at field level.
- vii. Industrial pockets such as Baddi and Nahan have successfully conducted the Chemical/Industrial mock exercises. All the industrial areas shall have mock drills on regular basis with reports being shared with the SDMA.
- viii. The State Govt has allocated land to the Department of Industries for expanding its industrial base in the State. It is imperative to ensure that land is allocated in a judicious manner, especially in case of hazardous industrial units. The need of the hour is to strictly enforce legislations on land-use in the State.
- ix. Third party risk assessment/Safety audit may be conducted in each chemical Industries of the State because the department may not have trained manpower.
- x. The nearby medical facilities may also be affected during the Chemical Disasters, these facilities should have contingency plan for medical arrangements.