



JANASANYOG, ASSAM
CHIEF MINISTER'S PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL, DISPUR

PRESS RELEASE

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CM takes review of flood situation

Maintaining of COVID-19 protocols must in relief camps: CM

Dispur, May 27: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today reviewed flood situation in the state at a meeting with the officials of Assam State Disaster Management Authority and top officials of various other departments at Assam Administrative Staff College. The Chief Minister directed for ensuring all COVID-19 protocols like social distancing, hand washing, wearing of masks etc. at the flood relief camps so that community spread of COVID-19 cases can be contained during the flood season.

Notably, nearly 2 lakh people in 229 villages in 9 districts of the state have been affected by the first wave of floods this year. 29 relief camps and 6 relief distribution centres have been set up in the state. 1007 hectares of farming lands have also been affected by floods. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) have been made and circulated by ASDMA for the relief camps in view of COVID-19.

Issuing instruction to Deputy Commissioners of all districts to keep soap and water for hand washing, masks for inmates while properly sanitizing the flood relief camps, Sonowal directed district administrations to ensure that no irregularities take place while distributing relief materials. He also issued directions for releasing of ex-gratia within 48 hours by district administration for those losing life in floods. He also instructed the DCs to regularly review the relief distribution system so that accountability can be fixed if any irregularity takes place. He also stressed on the need to keep an information board in all relief camps showing details of how much relief materials have been received by every individual inmate.

The Chief Minister directed the power department to cut off power in all those transformers submerged in floods so that no case of electrocution takes place during the floods. On being apprised about the LEWS advanced lightning warning system of ASDMA which can give a warning of impending lightning before 45 minutes, Sonowal instructed the department to use the system to reduce number of casualties in the state because of lightning.

Directing the PWD to take steps for repairing 157 roads damaged by floods in 8 districts, the Chief Minister instructed the water resources department to keep a stock of materials such as RCC Porcupine, bamboo, sand bags etc. in all districts for taking immediate measures to safeguard the areas affected by erosion. He also asked the

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officials of water resources department to go to the public and make them aware about delay in construction of embankments due to lockdown and heavy rainfall in the month of May. It is the duty of the government servants to hear the complaints of the people and assuage their grievances, he said. The Chief Minister also directed the ASDMA officials to disseminate information through advertisements in various media about the do's and don'ts during floods, lightning, storm etc.

During the meeting the Chief Minister was apprised that an amount of Rs. 386 crore has been released by Central Government as the first installment this year to State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and the Chief Minister emphasized proper utilization of the fund for providing succour to those affected by flood in the state. He also directed the Inland Water department to take precautionary measures to avoid boat mishaps during the rainy season and strictly enforce wearing of masks by crews and the passengers of ferries and the boats.

The Chief Minister instructed the veterinary department to provide cattle feed to the domestic animals in the flood affected areas and also provide food to the wild animals in Kaziranga National Park and other such flood affected wildlife sanctuaries.

Minister of State (i/c) for Disaster Management Jogen Mohan, Media Adviser to Chief Minister Hrishikesh Goswami, Legal Adviser to Chief Minister Shantanu Bharali, Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna, DGP Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta, Additional Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah, Principal Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management Rajesh Prasad, CEO ASDMA M S Manivannan alongwith top officials of various departments were present in the meeting.

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