

CHAPTER- 4

VULNERABLE AREAS (FLOOD, CYCLONE)

Vulnerability is defined as “the extent to which a community, structure, service, or geographic area is likely to be damaged or disrupted by the impact of particular hazard, on account of their nature, construction and proximity to hazardous terrain or a disaster prone areas”. The concept of vulnerability therefore leads to calculation of risk. Risk management would therefore mean the level of social and economic ability to cope with the resulting event in order to resist major disruption or loss. This susceptibility and vulnerability to each type of threat will depend on its respective differing characteristics.

2. The rainfall data and water holding capacity of different tanks mentioned in the previous chapter give knowledge to what extent the community could withstand the flood situation. But it is not predictable in respect of low lying areas where the habitation exists as the situation not only depends on the rainfall but to what extent the area has been facilitated in draining the rainwater. Therefore in order to have periodical maintenance and to monitor the situation during rainy season list of low lying areas is given in the Annexure - I.

3. Those vulnerable have to be given top priority, immediate relief and rehabilitation has to be effected without much delay. Preparedness and prevention measures are cast upon more particularly on PWD and Local Administration Department and their duties and responsibility are enunciated in the various chapter in this manual.

HAZARD PROFILE OF THE PUDUCHERRY REGION

4. Heavy rains showers during the months of October, November and December inundates low-lying areas, coastal areas and the areas nearby major irrigation sources. Cyclones are also part of the North East monsoon. Due to floods, sudden outbreak of several water borne diseases was also experienced in the past. This Action Plan has to be implemented keeping in mind the following hazards which also include natural calamities like Drought, Tsunami and Man-made disaster like Chemical pollution, Fire accidents etc.

5. Puducherry District consists of Four taluks viz. Puducherry, Oulgaret, Villianur and Bahour. Among these, Puducherry and the Bahour are the coastal taluks that lies in the heavy wind and cyclone zone while other four taluks lies in the flood zone. Puducherry has the land slope from west to east and from north to south. Since the district is situated at the seacoast, it drains water not only within the district, but also from the catchments close by. Relatively the mid land slopes make drainage difficult.

6. Puducherry has always been classified as a multi-hazard prone district. Cyclones and floods have wreaked havoc in the district several times in the past

few centuries. The district also falls within the zone-3 with respect to earthquakes.

7. A part of the problem owes its genesis to the location of the district. The district has a coastline of approximately 24 km. Therefore the district is vulnerable to the cyclonic depressions and the resultant rains, which cause floods.

8. Puducherry has an area of 292 Sq. Km. Comprising of extremely fertile and well irrigated lands benefiting from water draining over fields and through major and minor river systems. The district however suffers from the flooding when excess water flows down these local rivers and over the fields due to Northeast monsoon rains in the river basins and in the district itself.

9. The drainage is poor and the encroachments over the drought years have lead to a scenario where, even rainfalls, which are slightly above normal, can cause floods disrupting the normal course of work. Coupled with this is the perennial problem of low water carrying capacity of the lakes.

10. Natural disasters often tend to set the clock back in time further accentuating the problem as they lead to serious disruption of the functioning of a society causing widespread losses. These losses far exceed the affected society's ability to cope with it using its own resources.