

13TH FINANCE COMMISSION AWARD FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

The State of Meghalaya being situated in Seismic Zone - V is highly vulnerable to earthquakes. During 1897 the state was severely affected by a 8.7 magnitude earthquake which resulted in untold miseries. The earthquake of 8.5 magnitude which occurred in 1950 also caused loss of human lives and properties. The State experiences several low to medium intensity earthquakes regularly. Apart from earthquakes, it is affected by a number of land slides, storms, flash floods, fire accidents, road accidents and other kinds of hazards. Recently, the approach of the Government for dealing with disasters has undergone a change from Relief Oriented Approach to planning, preparedness and mitigation. The focus on capacity building of all the stake holders is being given due emphasis by the State Government for better management of disasters.

The objective of the 13th Finance Commission Award for Capacity Building is to build up the capacity of all the Government functionaries and communities to deal with disasters more effectively as better trained personnel can manage the disasters more efficiently. The Government functionaries will be trained in search and rescue, first aid and medical first responder and other skills related to management of disasters so as to usher in culture of preparedness in the state. The strengthening of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) and strengthening of Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) at the state and district levels are also provided in the programme. The financial assistance under 13th Finance Commission Award will be extended to the state from 2010 to 2015. This programme is being implemented through the State Disaster Management Authority Secretariat (SDMA).
