

Sikkim Times 03/10/19

Minister Kunga N Lepcha for disaster management education in school curriculum

NITESH R PRADHAN

Gangtok, Dec 04: Sikkim is prone to natural disasters and manmade calamities, the need for disaster relief and its reduction in the State with students being considered as volunteers for such calamities was stressed upon by Land Revenue and Education Minister Kunga Nima Lepcha at a conference on Industrial Safety and Emergency Preparedness at Chintan Bhawan from December 4 to 6. The Minister asserted on the proposal for consideration of disaster management education in the upcoming curriculum in schools across the State.

Minister Lepcha went back to his own experience as a student volunteer during the infamous 1968 flash floods in the State, stressing on students being as the ambassador for awareness on disaster management. "The students can take this message back home and share with their parents, as parents are the first persons needed to make conscious about disasters. We have devised a plan that enables student from classes



1-3 with inclusion of sustainable developmental goals of the United Nations. Sikkim is a small State, and there is no room for us to become history and focus on preservation. In 1997, I myself had intervened as a bureaucrat over a landslide and started a relief camp there. These attempts help in mobilizing the youth for the greater good."

With the conference and the conference of experts on natural disasters and industrial calamities,

the Minister divulged on knowledge and partnership in relief works as the biggest take away from the 3-day conference. "Focus should be not merely on what we take back, but also on the implementation to disaster risk reduction. With regards to various lakes in the State being disaster prone, we must take preventive actions and spread awareness these lakes can prove to be disastrous for us. We are also in discussion for certain legislation to be adopted with

regards to reduction of disasters with focus also on industrial disasters with an attempt at avoiding them."

With the winters fast approaching, the Minister also stressed on the unprecedented snowfall of last winter being a lesson on State's preparedness on such disasters which resulted in large scale loss of habitat specially for yaks. He also laid special focus on the 18 September 2011 earthquake which resulted in loss of lives and proper-

ties. "There is a need for mapping of disasters and also possible locations for such occurrence. Workers working in various industries must also be equally aware of the various disasters the industries and machinery are prone to. We are so far free from such industrial disasters but preparedness on such accounts must be considered".

The Minister also highlighted how the State has been chosen as a pilot State to mitigate disasters. The 3-day workshop organized on the lines of Chemical and Industrial Disaster Management (CIDM) 2019 in tandem with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority featured addresses from Rubead Sood, Additional Director and Head Disaster Management (FICCI), along with Retired IAS L. Mansing, who served as former secretary in Union Government, Relief Commissioner and Secretary La Praduan and Additional Director GC Khani among others.

Sikkim Express 04/12/19

Students can be ambassadors on disaster reduction: Minister Lepcha

PANKAJ DHUNGEL

GANGTOK, December 4: State Land Revenue & Disaster Management minister Kunga Nima Lepcha today stressed on considering students as volunteers in disaster reduction and relief efforts in the State. While pitching for introducing disaster management curriculum in schools, Lepcha said students can be ambassadors for awareness on disaster management. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the three-day conference on industrial safety and emergency preparedness at Chintan Bhawan here today.

Minister Lepcha went back to his own experience as a student volunteer during the 1968 flash floods in Sikkim and how students can be ambassadors for awareness on disaster management. "The students can take this message back home and share with their

parents, as parents are the first persons needed to make conscious about disasters. We have devised a plan that enable students from classes 1 to 3 with inclusion of sustainable developmental goals of the United Nations. Sikkim is a small State, and there is no room for us to become history and focus on preservation. In 1997, I myself had intervened as a bureaucrat over a landslide and started a relief camp there. These attempts help in mobilizing the youth for the greater good."

With the conference attended by experts on natural disasters and industrial calamities, the minister divulged on knowledge and partnership in relief works as the biggest takeaway from the three-day conference.

"Focus should be not merely on what we take back but also on the implementation to disaster



Minister K.N. Lepcha and others inspecting the disaster management equipment put up for display at the event venue.

risk reduction. With regards to various lakes in the State being disaster prone, we must take preventive actions and spread awareness as these lakes can prove to be disastrous for us. We are also in discussion for certain legislation to be adopted with regards to reduction of disasters with focus also on industrial disasters with an attempt at avoiding them," he mentioned.

Citing last winter's unprecedented snowfall, the minister said it was a lesson on the State's preparedness which resulted in large scale loss of habitat and yaks. "There is a need for mapping of disasters and also possible locations for such occurrence. Workers working in various industries must also be equally aware of the various disasters the industries and the

machinery are prone to. We are so far free from such industrial disasters but preparedness on such accounts must be considered," he said highlighting that Sikkim has been chosen as a pilot State to mitigate disasters.

The conference organized on the lines of Chemical and Industrial Disaster Management (CIDM) 2019 in tandem with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority featured speeches from Rubead Sood, Additional Director and Head Disaster Management (FICCI), along with former Union secretary L. Mansing, State Relief Commissioner and Land Revenue & Disaster Management secretary Ambika Pradhan and additional director G.C. Khani among others.

Himalayan mirror 08/12/19

Mock drill on earthquake-induced chemical emergency preparedness

HM Report

Gangtok, Dec 7: A mock exercise on disaster preparedness in addressing earthquake-induced chemical hazard emergencies was conducted at Rangpo on Friday under supervision of the DC East, Raj Yadav.

The mock exercise was organized by Chemical and Industrial Disaster Management (CIDM) in coordination with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), East. A scenario of chemical outbreak from the IOCL depot and LPG bottling plant in Rangpo triggered by a 6.7 magnitude earthquake was created during the mock exercise conducted at five different locations in Rangpo. Information and training to prevent casualties during such situation was given to companies and general public, informs an IPR



press note. The incident command post /control room was set up at the SDM Office, wherein SDM Rangpo was the Incident Commandant. All heads of departments and other stakeholders reported at the control room within 15 minutes of the earthquake striking and the mock exercise began at 10:30 am. A relief camp was set up at community hall.

Simultaneously the public were made aware of the mock exercise through siren and PA system of Fire and Police personnel.

NDRF, SDRF, Police, Fire, Civil Defence, Forest and NYKs were the task force deployed in different locations and were successful to bring the situation under control within one and half hour. This mock exercise was also witnessed

by CIDM Head, former member NDMA Dr. M. Ahmed and Brigadier B.K. Khanna, the renowned mock drill expert in India.

The exercise was conducted to check coordination among different departments and the ground staffs to make the functioning of the relief and rescue operation faster, efficient and reliable in times of real time disasters.