

OVERVIEW

Maharashtra witnessed the worst ever-torrential rainfall in July and August 2005 affecting all the four regions of the State, claiming around 1100 human lives and around 27,000 lives of cattle. The state witnessed a similar disaster again in July and August 2006 when lives of 400 persons were lost. A total amount of Rs 1191.22 crore was spent on relief and rehabilitation measures between August 2005 and September 2006.

Audit of the expenditure incurred on preparedness for flood and relief to flood affected persons disclosed that the level of preparedness for flood was not adequate; relief assistance was extended without proper identification of affected persons, financial management was deficient and monitoring of relief and rehabilitation activities was unsatisfactory.

Disaster Management Plan was not updated and rehearsed at State level and District level. Long term plans such as desiltation of river, improvement of drainage system were not ready except in Mumbai District. Desiltation works in Mithi river recommended by a Committee in 1993 commenced only after the floods in 2005. The warning dissemination system was deficient as 53 out of 69 VHF sets installed in four out of 10 test checked districts were not functioning since 2003-04. Ex-gratia assistance of Rs 4.39 crore was paid without observing the norms. Relief assistance in both cash and kinds to the extent of Rs 16.14 crore was paid without verifying eligibility. Financial management during the process of relief and rehabilitation was saddled with the cases of overdrawal (Rs 1.29 crore), diversion of funds (Rs 1.43 crore), non-execution of urgent repairs to restore civic amenities (Rs 10.49 crore) and delayed procurement of essential medicines and equipment. Failure to coordinate with the Government of Karnataka for release of Almatti dam waters in time led to inundation of adjoining Sangli District. As a result, Rs 58.78 crore was spent towards relief assistance in the District.