

## DECCAN HERALD

Excerpts from Deccan Herald Report by Shemin Joy dated 17.04.2015

### Govt prepares 'Blue Book' on disaster management

Move is aimed at ensuring zero casualty during crises

**The government is looking at ensuring "zero casualty" during natural disasters through proper mitigation measures but has warned states against "artificial suppression" of data on death and destruction.**

The suggestion is part of a draft 'Blue Book' to guide relief and rehabilitation efforts before cyclones, learning from the experience of successful management cyclone Hudhud in 2013.

The draft report was sent to states seeking comments by April 30.

#### **Relief Measures**

- Comprehensive state insurance cover to people, homes and cattle
- Underground duct for power, communication, gas lines should be planned in all urban bodies
- Evacuation routes should be laid or restored before onset of monsoon
- Telecommunication systems should be robust and foolproof
- Coastal mobile towers need to be built to withstand 250 kmph speed
- Alternatives to electricity should be kept ready.

The proposal for 'Blue Book' came from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Union Home Ministry set up an inter-ministerial panel in October last.

Another proposal was the construction of helipads at regular intervals along highways.

With the National Disaster Management already publishing 'Guidelines on Management of Cyclones', the official said the 'Blue Book' does not seek to duplicate the work.