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MESSAGE

Our country has certain disaster prone areas. High vulnerability of its physical and socio-economic profile characterize the disaster scenario of the subcontinent which has been, traditionally, facing different types of natural calamities that often turn into disasters, causing high loss of life and property.

Considering the vast size, its unique regional features and the need for comprehensive proactive approach to managing disaster, the Government of India, during the International Decade for Natural Disasters Reduction (IDNDR) had taken several initiatives. With the initiative of the erstwhile Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, a Vulnerability Atlas of India on the occurrence of earthquakes, cyclones and floods was brought out by the Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) in 1997. The second edition of Vulnerability of India was brought out by BMTPC in 2006 based on Census 2001 data using GIS tools and digitized maps were developed for the first-time providing hazard and seismo-tectonic information up to district level. I am happy that the Atlas has since served as one of the valuable tools for developing proactive approaches and strategies as part of the ongoing national and state level efforts for disaster mitigation.

The need for further Revision of the Atlas of 2006 was necessitated due to changes in hazard scenario, creation of new states and districts, availability of new data for housing as per Census of India 2011 etc. Therefore, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs constituted a Peer Group with representation from different concerned agencies. The Peer Group after considering all aspects in detail, through a series of meetings and dialogues, prepared the third revision of Vulnerability Atlas of India giving the Hazard Maps with respect to earthquakes, wind/cyclones, floods, landslides and thunderstorm in digitized form as well as district-wise housing tables giving distribution of houses by predominant materials of roofs & walls and level of damage risk based on Census 2011 data.

The latest information on the possible intensities that may be obtaining in the event of natural hazards and the resulting risk level to housing and buildings will be very useful to the state and national authorities, NITI Aayog, Members of State legislatures and the disaster managers at different levels.

I am happy that the Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has brought out third revision of the Vulnerability Atlas of India. I hope, the Atlas would be useful while formulating plans for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in different States by bringing in the necessary modifications in the landuse zoning practices, building bye-laws and regulations.

I wish BMTPC success in their endeavor!

(Durga Shanker Mishra)

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