

F. No. 47-21/2013-NDM-II  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Disaster Management Division)

'B' Wing 3rd Floor, NDCC-II Tower  
Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001

Dated the 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2013

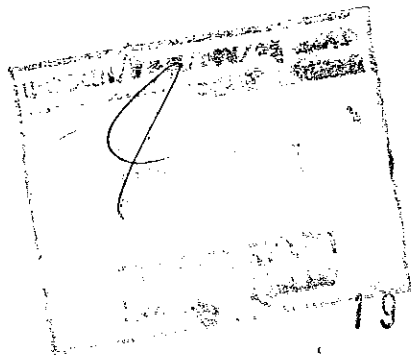
To,

Shri R.K. Chopra, Deputy Secretary & CPIO  
National Disaster Management Authority,  
NDMA Bhawan, A-1, Safdarjung Enclave,  
New Delhi-110029

Subject: Transfer of Application received under the RTI Act, 2005 of Shri Mahendra A Parikh.  
Under Section 6(3) of the RTI-Act-reg.

I am to say that Shri Mahendra A Parikh vide his letter dated 31.7.2013 (received in this DM-II Division On 13.8.2013) has sought information under RTI Act, 2005 in respect of issues relating to NDMA.

2. As the information sought by the applicant is maintained in your office, his application is transferred to you under Section 6(3) of RTI Act, 2005 for taking necessary action.



Yours faithfully,

*(Handwritten signature)*

(Ashok Shukla)

Deputy Secretary (DM-II) & CPIO

Telefax: 23438071

79 AUG 2013

Copy for information to: 1. Mahendra A Parikh, Commissariat Building, 231 DN Road, Mumbai 400001. — SPEED POST

2. S.E. Rizwi, Deputy Secretary, and CPIO, Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi 110011 w.r.t No. RTI/3609/2013-PMR dated 7.8.2013

P.B.No  
25/2013

C-147946/HSLK  
08-08

**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

South Block  
New Delhi-110 011

No. RTI/3609/2013-PMR

Dated: 07 /08/2013

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Subject : Application under Right to Information Act, 2005.

An application dated 31/07/2013 received on 03/08/2013 from Shri Mahendra A. Parikh on the above noted subject is transferred under section 6(3) (ii) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, for action as appropriate.

Application fee has been received.

  
(S.E. Rizwi)

Deputy Secretary and  
Central Public Information Officer  
Phone: 2307 4072

Home Secretary  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
North Block, New Delhi-110 001

Copy by Registered AD to:

Shri Mahendra A. Parikh  
231, D.N. Road  
Mumbai - 400 001  
Maharashtra

You are advised to approach the above public authority for further information regarding the matter.

15 अंश  
8/10  
15(CDM)

for b/w  
DS (CDM-IP)

~~USCDMHE-15~~ Kanar  
13/8/13  
SO (CDM-IP)

3609-13-5 Aug 13

3609/13

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS, INDIA  
O/O THE DIRECTOR MUMBAI GPO MUMBAI-400001.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION PRIORITY

From:-  
The Central Asstt. Public Information Officer (CAPIO)  
Computerised Customer Care Centre  
Mumbai GPO, Mumbai-400001  
Phone No. 022-22623120

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
-3 AUG 2013  
DAK SECTION

URGENT  
RTI ACT  
Diary No. 10854  
Date 03/08/13 By Regd. AD  
Last Date 08/08/13  
For Dis:

To:  
The Central Public Information Officer,  
Prime Ministers Office  
Government of India, South Block  
New Delhi-110001.

No. CCCC/RTI/285 / 13-14 dated at Mumbai GPO the 31.07.2013.

Sub:- Forwarding of application under RTI Act-2005.

An application received from Shri. Mahendra A. Parikh under Right to Information Act-2005 as particularised below is enclosed herewith.

MHA

Brief Information sought for  
Information Regarding National Disaster management Authority.

The applicant has paid a fee Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only ) for the application under RTI Act-2005 vide IPO No. 13F 955001 Dtd.03.07.2013 issued by Bazargate PO Mumbai is enclosed herewith.

It is, therefore requested to furnish the information directly to the applicant.

Encl:- As above.

31.7.2013

IPONo. 13F 955001 of 101 - CAPIO & Assistant Superintendent (PG)  
Mumbai GPO -400001

Copy To:- Shri. Mahendra A. Parikh., Commissariat Building. 231, D.N. Road,  
Mumbai-400001. For Information.

Further correspondence, if any, may kindly be made directly to the  
above addressee, if no reply is received within the stipulated period.

CAPIO & Assistant Superintendent (PG)  
Mumbai GPO -400001

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ANNEXURE - A

(See rule 3)

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Format of Application for obtaining information under the Right to Information Act, 2005  
The Public Information Officer  
Public Information Officer  
Prime Minister's Office  
Government of India, South Block  
New Delhi 110001

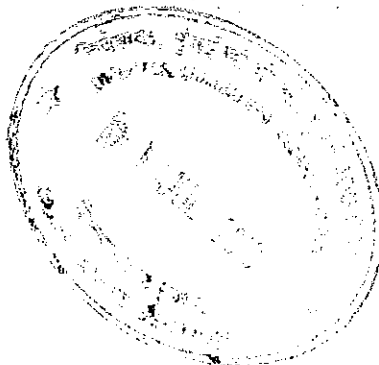
- 1) Full name of the applicant; Mahendra A Parikh
- 2) Address: Commissariat Building, 231 D N Road, Mumbai 400 001
- 3) Particulars of Information required –
  - (i) Subject matter of information: National Disaster Management Authority – Actions for preventive measures – Effective management for actions in case of disasters – Modality of operations
  - (ii) The period to which the information Relates: Since inception.
  - (iii) Description of the information required:
    - a. Number of meetings of NDMA held during from April 2010
    - b. Action taken for preventive measures
    - c. Effectiveness of action taken
    - d. Yearly spend for salaries, travelling and other administrative expenses
    - e. Number of regional centers established in different states
    - f. Reasons for lack of plan for prevention of disaster in Uttarakhand and effective measure even after the recent disaster.
    - g. Authority responsible for monitoring
  - (iv) Whether information is required by post or in person (The actual postal charges shall be included in additional fees): By Post –
  - (v) In case by post (Ordinary, registered or Speed): Ordinary Post –
  - (vi) Purpose for which the information is required: It is clear from various media reports that Uttarakhand Government has miserably failed in warning the pilgrims and even afterwards in helping the victims. See media reports in Eastern Panorama July issue attached herewith
4. Whether the applicant is below poverty line: No  
(Photo copy of proof to be attached)

Place : Mumbai

Date : 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013

Post order of Rs 10 attached

Signature of the applicant



been that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has rather become a de-facto 'rehabilitation centre' for retired babus and defence personnel.

Headed by the Prime Minister in the capacity of Chairman, the NDMA has one Vice - Chairman who enjoys the rank of a cabinet minister and eight members, mostly former bureaucrats and defence personnel, who are given perks and salaries in the rank of ministers of state. It has a Secretary, four Joint Secretaries and over 130 employees but when it comes to a concrete role in the field during crises, there has been 'little use' in terms of response to natural or manmade disasters.

As living testimony of how paper-work, clauses and by - laws seem to make a mockery of the entire system, insiders suggest that while in earthquake prone zones the central ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has to work on these, there is so called the hyped 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment under which municipalities have the powers. "So, in the process, none acted properly and thus the real estate business boomed in the hills and today we have the catastrophe," remarked an officer associated with the NDMA.

**SEARCH AMID CHAOS:**

In the chaos and confusion and great human misery, thousands searched for their near and dear ones. Helpless people plunged into social networking sites. A Facebook page for rescue and relief in Uttarakhand was created with pleas for help to find missing people. "This havoc is a result of massive deforestation and mining," lamented one netizen.

In some places like Agasta Muni with a population of about 2 lakh, the administration is facing a shortage of shortage even as survivors complained about absence of food in other places also.

**Rain Rain - Thy Name is Tragedy**

- ✦ Over 4800 guides and their ponies, 1000 palanquin bearers have gone missing.
- ✦ The Tourism department said they did not have information of about 700 hotel and tourism officials 1,000 shopkeepers and around 100 priests.
- ✦ At least 10 Government guesthouses run by the temple committees were destroyed.
- ✦ The destruction also left number of key roads and bridges submerged.
- ✦ Fifty metre bridge at Lambagarh washed away. The Rudraprayag-Gaurikund Road was the worst affected.
- ✦ Songanga bridge at km 70.30 has been washed away while the other at 35.60 Rawanganga was also damaged.
- ✦ The Jauljibi-Munsiyari road was closed for days.

**Family from SHILLONG lost in Uttarakhand**

The kin of the family from Shillong, which went missing at Kedarnath in Uttarakhand after the Himalayan Tsunami have sought the support of the East Khasi Hills District administration in locating the missing family members.

The kin of the family members had met the Deputy Commissioner of East Khasi Hills Sanjay Goyal in this regard and had handed over the names and pictures of the missing family members to the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner, on his part has informed that the information has been forwarded to the authorities in Uttarakhand and that an official letter asking for the

Uttarakhand authorities to aid in locating the missing family members had been sent.

The six missing members of the family - Shigan Agarwal (80), Kasturi Devi Agarwal (70), Satya Narayan Agarwal (58), Hiramani Agarwal (50), Mahabir Prasad Agarwal (47) and Saroj Agarwal (45) are residents of the Garikhana locality of Shillong and had gone on a pilgrimage to Kedarnath.

The kin of the family had said that some of their family members had gone as far as Dehradun in an attempt to get information relating to the location of the missing family members.

EP Desk

**TRIPURA donates ₹1 Cr to Uttarakhand CM's Relief Fund**

The Tripura Government has announced a contribution of ₹1 crore for the victims of the floods and landslides in Uttarakhand.

This was declared by Chief Minis-

ter Manik Sarkar in the State Secretariat after a cabinet meeting held recently.

Expressing his Government's deep sorrow for the victims and affected

## Role of NDMA, NDRF and SDRF

The National Disaster Management Agency, the apex body for disaster management in the country has stationed National Disaster Response Force Battalions in various parts of the country. NDMA had asked the Uttarakhand Government permission to station a permanent NDRF Battalion in the State two years ago. But the permission never came. Had there been an NDRF Battalion, definitely, to some extent they could have made a difference. NDMA through NDRF has been building capacity, of State police personnel in areas of disaster management, especially search, rescue and relief measures. States need to take this exercise seriously as disaster can strike at any time. States need to invest their time and resources in enhancing their disaster management systems. The response and work of the State Disaster Response Forces trained by NDRF are crucial during calamities.

The major landslide in a residential area of Aizawl in May this year was the test for the State's State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). The entire exercise of search and rescue missions was in their hands, their performance and dedication was indeed exemplary. The training they received from NDRF gave them the required insight to deal effectively and evolve quick responses on ground to expedite the recovery of bodies.

## Involvement of NGOs

During such times, a lot of ordinary people want to do their bit and get involved in the relief and rehabilitation process. It is through NGOs and even Government organizations like the Nehru Yuva Kendras, National Service Scheme cells, etc that people can contribute to ease the sufferings of others. Avenues for their training and involvement need to be factored in disaster management plans and their role clearly drawn. Mizoram is lucky to have an NGO like the Young Mizo Association that never fails the people in times of need. The YMA coordinated rescue operations during the landslide incident very well and also managed to collect more than ₹80 lakhs for those who lost everything. In hill States and tribal societies, communities are close knit which makes it easier to bring people together for a common cause.

## The Power of Social Media

In today's fast paced world, one of the best ways to put out information so that it reaches people is online media, especially social media. It was reassuring to see Google products used to search for people. The power of online media and the reach of social media need to be explored so that these can be used to the maximal.

Pratap Chhetri

