

REPORT MADE BY DR. J. ANTHONY DASS, PRESIDENT, SERVICE CIVIL INTERNATIONAL INDIA, ON HIS VISIT TO EARTH QUAKE AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA STATE FROM 11TH TO 18th OCTOBER, 1993.

On hearing the news of the 30.9.1993, Earth Quake at Lathode and Urmerga Districts of Maharashtra, I attended two meetings called by the Co-ordinating Council of Voluntary organisation, in Bangalore, to help the Earth quake victims.

On 11th October, 1993, I left Bangalore to Bijapur - Gulbarga, Bidar enroute to Lathore.

I noticed several houses were damaged in Shabud Taluk, Gulbarga and the loss of death was minimal as many people were sleeping outside because of the high temperature in the area. I met the Collector of Bijapur, Bidar and Private Secretary to Gulbarga Collector and came to understand they are issuing with some compensations and making arrangements for repairing of houses (if possible) and allotment of new sites for the victims.

On 15th Oct., I reached Lathore and made a trip to about 20 villages around Kilari, Kilariwada, Nandurga, Lambala, Philami, etc., about 10 villages and more have been completely destroyed, people are in acute depression, most of the survivors staring vacantly in the space, powerless to speak and unable to cry.

Kilari, Kilariwada, Philani, Nimbala, where more than 30 % of the family members in the area are no more. The entire region has made a mountainable rubble. Kilari has been mostly focused because of its proximity and also Sri. Vilas Rao Deshmukh, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra, ails from Kilari. There are about 75 villages affected in this quake - out of which nearly 25 very badly and 10 has been completely destroyed. Death toll according to the Government's Mahajar Records are 9,748, but people in the villages say around 15,000.

Some villagers told me that the death toll and property loss would have been minimum if the rumor of dam crack has not spread, so the survivors ran away to save their life. By the time they returned, only they saw that the Military, police and other ^{passers} ~~volunteers~~ were there. During this period, many valuables has been swept out.

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Nearly numbering to about hundreds of relief agencies, volunteers are working. Some of the International Organisations like CARE, CARITAS, CASA, OXFAM, are operating from Lathode / Umargha and many like RSS, Bajarangabali, BJP, Vishva Hindu Parishath, Youth Congress, Shrama Jeevana Sangha, S.O.S. Children, Mahila Sanghatan and some other organisations from Aurangabad, Hyderabad, Pune, etc., were also working in the allotted villages by helping in cooking, distributing food / clothes / and other utensiles which is a basic necessities for the affected victims. It is much desasters site to see that the Jamindars who never stretched their hands has a problems now to stretch their hands.

Minor tremors continue to occur in Seisamic zone, around 30 Kilometers, people are afraid to sleep inside their house, they also have to be provided with shelter, water, electricity, which seems to be zigantic task for the Maharastra Government.

As on 18th October, 1993, about 55 Community kitchens has been set up by Government, about 5,000 temporary Shelters with zinc sheets, of a large size ~~for~~ 200 feet x 60 feet has been provided and almost village schools have been reppened with a make shift. American tents, Agricultural Seeds have been distributed. In ach village, I visited there were two medical centres with enough medicines and equipments, one run by Maharashtra Government, another run by B.J.P. / Viswahindu parishat Combine and also met many Red Cross Vans running as mobile dispensaries.

Most of the affected villages are connected now with the Electricity for temporary communnity sheds with flood lights in the streets, water tank to the capacity of 10,000 litres has been provided with the Borewell facilities and tankers are also in hundreds by supplying portable water to these affected villages.

According to a Government Official - they are bent upon constructing 18,000 houses by January / February 1994, officials told me that they shall be commencing with the work after Dasara Festival. Japanese model earth quake proof houses are also on

display for the farmers to approve. Farmers were reluctant as they do not like toilet and bathroom within the house.

As on 18th Oct., 1993, police and military personals were still existing in the affected villages and their protection and help were in full swing. Roads have been blocked in some areas and only allow people with identity cards. Internal transport is very poor. But an other distarous is that, rain is continuous-ly pouring and the soil is damp, but still volunteers can live in American tents with taurpaulitans on the floor. In Kāsthur, Kawta Villages, out break of skin diseases and stay case of gūstro entrities has been reported.

It was found that the relief and rehabilitation work has been organized in a systematic manner. There were two Deputy Collectors 1 for supplies and 1 for procurement for each cluster of villages. 1 Thasildar is incharge of each village.

Every evening at 7.30 P.M., a meeting is convened in the Thasildar's office, for monitoring and the progress of works considerations. Every night at 9.30 P.M. the District Collector has programmed a meeting at the Collectorate Office, both at Latur and Omarga to monitor the progress of work with efficiency and promptitude.

During my visit, I had the opportunity in meeting Thasildar, Sri. Paphulkar and Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Sri. Vilas Rao Deshmukh, at Latur.

I suggest to S.C.I. to come out of past glory and realise the present conditions and realities and take appropriate step keeping in mind the ^Vailability and man power and money in group level.

1. The S.C.I. can join any international team who are already working by providing 2 to 4 able bodied willing and dedicated volunteers, for their continuing in the relief operations.
2. S.C.I. can adopt one village for the next three months; can do only Animation work with 3 to 5 volunteers, by changing each from 2 to 3 weeks.
3. Continuous work camps for 3 months with duration of 2 weeks on rehabilitation / solidarity, etc.
4. Encouragēng the individuals of the S.C.I. volunteers to stay in the affected areas and give moral support / guidance / help to the people.