പതിനാലാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

പതിനഞ്ചാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത ചോദ്യം നമ്പർ. 5019

27.06.2019 – ൽ മറുപടിക്ക്

പ്രളയാനന്തര പുനർനിർമ്മിതിയ്ക്കായുള്ള ഉപദേശകസമിതിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം

	ചോദും		മറുപടി
:	ശ്രീ.അന്തപ് ജേക്കബ്		പിണറായി വിജയൻ (മുഖ്യമന്ത്രി)
എ)	പ്രളയാനന്തര പുനർനിർമ്മിതിയ്ക്കായി രൂപീകരിച്ച ഉപദേശകസമിതി 2018 ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസത്തിലുണ്ടായ പ്രളയത്തിനുശേഷം എത്ര യോഗങ്ങൾ എവിടെയെല്ലാം വച്ച് ഏതെല്ലാം തീയതികളിൽ ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് അറിയിക്കുമോ;	എ)	ആകെ 3 ഉപദേശകസമിതിയോഗങ്ങൾ ഇതുവരെ നടന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒന്നും രണ്ടും മൂന്നും യോഗങ്ങൾ യഥാക്രമം 22/10/2018, 13/11/2018, 20/03/2019 എന്നീ തീയതികളിൽ സെക്രെട്ടേറിയറ്റിലെ മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ കോൺഫറൻസ് ഹാളിൽ വച്ച് നടന്നു
	പ്രസ്തുത യോഗങ്ങളുടെ യോഗനടപടിക്കുറിപ്പുകളുടെ പകർപ്പുകൾ ലഭ്യമാക്കമോ; പ്രസ്തുത യോഗങ്ങളിൽ എന്തെല്ലാം തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും പ്രസ്തുത തീരുമാനങ്ങളിൽ ഏതെല്ലാം നടപ്പിലാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അറിയിക്കുമോ?	ബി) & സി)	പ്രസ്തൃത യോഗങ്ങളിൽ എടുത്ത തീരുമാനങ്ങളടങ്ങിയ യോഗനടപടിക്കുറിപ്പുകളുടെ പകർപ്പ് അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർത്തിരിക്കുന്നു. ഉപദേശകസമിതി യുടെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾക്കും തീരുമാനങ്ങൾക്കും അന്ത്യതമായി വിവിധ മേഖലകൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ഒരു സമഗ്ര കേരള പുനർനിർമാണ വികസന പരിപാടി (Rebuild Kerala Development Programme, RKDP) മന്ത്രിസഭ അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Advisory Council of Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) held on 22-10-2018

The first meeting of the Advisory Council of Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) was held in the Chief Minister's Conference hall at 11 AM on 22.10.2018. Hon'ble Chief Minister chaired the meeting.

The list of attendees is appended.

The Chief Secretary and Member Secretary of the Advisory Council welcomed the hon'ble members to the meeting. He outlined the need for creating a frame work to encompass all activities and projects that have to be taken up to rebuild Kerala, in the wake of the devastating floods that the state witnessed in July-August 2018. He informed that the UN agencies had prepared a Post Disaster Needs Assessment report (PDNA) and the executive summary and recommendations have been circulated to the members of the Advisory Council for their information.

In his address, Hon. Chief Minister expressed pleasure that most of the members have made it convenient to attend the meeting. He also informed that Shri Alphons Kannanthanam, Hon. Minister for Tourism, Government of India had informed him of his inability to attend the meeting.

Providing an overview, Hon. Chief Minister observed that the rescue, distribution of distress relief and urgent rehabilitation works have been undertaken satisfactorily. Moving on, the Planning Board has been designated as the coordinating institution to prepare a livelihood strategy and the Local Self Governments have already started projects at the local level for repair and reconstruction. The PWD has started works wherever urgent repairs were needed.

What is envisaged is new and different approach which leads to 'Navakeralam', a firm foundation that has to be laid for rebuilding a better and more resilient State. In the first phase, a comprehensive assessment of damage has been done by professional international agencies. New projects will have to be identified, new policy initiatives undertaken, and if necessary new legislation will have to be thought about. For all these, the best practices available internationally will have to be studied and incorporated. International agencies can play a big role in this area. Similarly, KPMG has offered several suggestions on the basis of their expertise and international network.

It is in this area that the Advisory Council can play a vital role. The important aspect is to conceptualise and implement projects with speed and efficiency. There should be a time bound program for completing houses for those who have lost their homes. Government considers providing for land and house to those who have lost their land and house in the floods. In the cases where land is available, the beneficiary should be given a choice to rebuild his house by himself or with Government support. In this context, scientific study has to be conducted to identify at-risk zones. Agriculture needs special attention, particularly in the context of reports that acidity

levels in the soil has increased. Issues of irrigation in low-lying areas have to be addressed.

In a nutshell, there should be a frame work for the infrastructure development undertaken under RKI. Some projects will be undertaken by RKI and government departments will have to take on other projects. The advice, inputs and suggestions of Members of the Advisory Council, with their rich and varied experience, would be invaluable in this stage. The Advisory Council should meet once in every two weeks in the initial phase to provide the right orientation.

Dr. K M Abraham, former Chief Secretary, gave an outline of the operational strategy and institutional frame work. The key aspect was to 'BUILD BACK BETTER', with a mix of strategies for implementation and financing. RKI will set up an online mechanism so that the Advisory Council members can provide inputs on a continuous basis. It is proposed to gather ideas from a variety of sources which will be screened and converted to project profiles.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala, Hon. Leader of Opposition, welcomed the suggestions made. He pointed out that international experiences on disaster recovery in countries such as Indonesia and Netherlands, should be studied closely, as relevant models may be great use to the State. Projects that are conducive to the unique social situation of Kerala should be drawn up. The 'BUILD BACK BETTER' philosophy should be applied in all possible areas, particularly in construction of roads. Emphasis should be given to water resource management. Whereever needed, experts from the respective fields should be brought in. The macro economic impact has to be closely monitored. In the housing sector, specifications must be laid down in tune with the local area contexts. If necessary, a legal framework has to be established.

Sri Mathew T Thomas, Minister (Water Resources) pointed out that the distribution network should be expanded. The smooth flow of water should be ensured and issues such as encroachment into canals should be addressed. The water resource management should be studied in depth. Septage studies need to be undertaken in collaboration with Local governments.

Sri K M Chandrasekhar, former Cabinet Secretary and former Vice Chairman, State Planning Board observed that the PDNA has certain good ideas. The Water Resource Management Program implemented by Maharashtra Government including the reservoir scheme should be studied, as this may provide insights into managing our dams. Flood path of major rivers ha to be identified and marked. If necessary, the National Centre for Coastal Research, Chennai may be contacted in this respect. Government of India should be approached for an increase in FRBM. Even if funds are made available, implementation of projects through departmental mechanism may slow it down. An independent agency for reconstruction and recovery, perhaps a not for profit company, may be set up for speedy implementation.

Sri Ramachandran Kadannappally, Minister for Ports pointed out that scientific study must be initiated for fragile areas like Wayanad, where there is still threat of landslide. All initiatives should try to involve the people, particularly the youth who participated actively in flood relief efforts.

Sri A.K. Saseendran, Minister for Transport, said that the impact of sea erosion may also be included in the studies to be conduced. There should be an endeavour to include the Stte as a whole while considering urban transport as the divide in Kerala betweem rural and urban areas is negligibly small.

Sri Byju Raveendran (Byju's Learning App) remarked that there should be a continuous campaign to push the crowdfunding model in order to maintain momentum for the next 3 months. The power of the social media should be used and the first responders should be educated and trained to deal with emergencies. There should only be a single number to address distress calls. Efforts should be taken to bring back the large talent pool, that is available outside the State.

Sri K P Kannan , formerly of Centre for Development Studies, emphasised the need for an environment friendly approach while building 'New Kerala'. The management of land and water is the biggest challenge. Concepts such as 'living with water' and 'room for the river' should become part of the strategy. The shrinking of the areas that can hold water is a matter of concern that should be addressed. People should be encouraged to adopt eco-friendly alternatives through a process of handholding. The most pressing need in the State is to provide livelihood options to the affected families. A massive program incorporating MGNREGA, over the next 5 years focussing on eco restoration should be taken up. This exercise may help in preventing top soil erosion and revival of farm lands. A careful re-examination to address the tax gap may yield considerable funds.

Sri T K A Nair, former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, observed that the suggestions made in the PDNA report are practical. Land use and water resource management must be given importance. Although there is adequate legislation, the implementation is quite poor. The suggestions on the institutional frame work are acceptable.

Sri V Suresh, former CMD HUDCO, was of the view that the damages of around 1.8 lakh houses were the damage is below 50% may be taken up on priority, utilising the services of housing facilitation centres. Rather than using a single technology, it is advisable to use a combination of technologies for housing purposes. Modern technology can be used to construct cluster houses and technology for independent residences should be decided. Expert agencies should be identified district-wise, which may be entrusted with speedy construction of the houses. A small expert committee should be set up to address the necessity of the techno legal regime including an examination of the amendments needed in the Kerala Building Rules, a shelf of options suitable for the different regions of the State may be prepared. The possibility of raising tax free infrastructure bonds may be explored, as also the potential to tap into CSR funds.

Sri Muralee Thummarukudy, who joined the meeting via video link, had circulated his views as a paper which was distributed to the members. At the outset, he appreciated the idea of UN in the PDNA report to moot an independent agency/company for the rebuilding initiative. He suggested that a meeting to bring together international experts such as International Recovery Platform, Japan, on the best practices in post disaster management may be planned. New aspects like climate

change have to be incorporated in the process for which UN experts may be involved. Strategic environment planning has to be done in view of the massive requirement for the rebuilding program to be undertaken in the next three years. The involvement of women and youth in all levels should be given due importance.

Hon. Chief Minister thanked the members for their valuable suggestions. He suggested that the next meeting of Advisory Council may be held on 13th November. A platform to ensure continuous dialogue with the members of Advisory Council may be put in position urgently.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.

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Minutes of the Advisory Council, Rebuilding Kerala Initiative held on 13-11-2018 in the Chief Minister's Conference hall.

The meeting began at 11 am. The list of members present is appended.

In his opening remarks, Shri Tom Jose, Chief Secretary outlined the steps taken by Government to address pressing issues. The first meeting of High Level Empowered Committee (HLEC), Rebuilding Kerala Initiative was held on 85 November 2018. Regular meetings of the Secretaries Committee to address housing issues have been held. The detailed concept note on housing was prepared and approved by HLEC. The major recommendations in PDNA and RDNA were discussed in HLEC and it was decided that the Secretaries would examine and give a detailed feedback on their requirement within two weeks. As per the list consolidated by Revenue Department, 6,537 persons have opted for own construction. Out of this, first instalment from SDRF, released to 1656 persons and Rs.16 crores have been paid into their accounts. The District Collectors have been given directions to draw up plan of action to complete post flood reconstruction activities in a time bound manner. 12 typical designs with flood resilient design features is in the process of being approved. A conference to discuss the Livelihood Restoration Package was held under the leadership of State Planning Board on 1°and 2°4November 2018.

Dr. K M Abraham, Chairman RKI Implementation Committee, presented the framework of Rebuilding Kerala Initiative. He detailed the six tracks for collecting project and policy ideas, involving various stake holders such as youth, school and college students, LSG institutions, experts, civil society representatives and departments.

Shri Tom Jose presented the recommendations and proposed studies culled out of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). He sought the views and advice of the council members on the proposals. He also suggested that the members could provide the views in writing subsequently as well.

Sri Ramesh Chennithala, Hon. Leader of the Opposition presented a paper - Rebuild Kerala Initiative: An Alternative Approach' which was circulated to the members. He observed that we have to learn valuable lessons from the calamity so that we can develop systems that will enable us to deal with such disasters better. He suggested examining whether there was a failure to formulate and implement Disaster Management Plan as per national guidelines & whether the community volunteers were effectively utilised at the time of disaster. He suggested that all districts should have a District Disaster Management Plan. He pointed out that the collection and compilation of data has resulted in differing figures about the quantum of loss. There is an urgent need to accurately quantify the loss of private assets and public property. Top priority should be given to compensate the people to help restore their assets and livelihood. Applications should be invited from the affected people to enable quick distribution of compensation after due verification. The LSG institutions should be involved in the rebuilding process and the LSGs should be in charge of community based projects. Clear objective and transparent norms should be fixed. Regarding the funds needed for the rebuilding process, he pointed out that there is a huge gap between the State Government resources and the actual amount necessary for recovery. He stressed the need to utilise all available resources under centrally sponsored schemes, CSR funding and funds allocated to Local Governments. The losses suffered by small businesses and Industries should also be adequately compensated. Studies in Chengamanad, Payippad and Aluva have shown that post-flood relief efforts are not satisfactory. There should be a comprehensive dam management strategy.

Dr K P Kannan stated he was involved in the preparation of the PDNA, and that the PDNA has been developed after extensive field visits and consultations. Emphasis should be given to restore livelihoods. The convergence of central schemes such as MGNREGS to ecorestoration projects will help in providing jobs while contributing to the reconstruction efforts. There have been several studies and reports on the issue of water management and Kuttanad. There is need to address integrated water resources management and land management issues. There should be an enquiry into the state of knowledge as numerous studies and reports are available.

Shri T K A Nair pointed out that many of the issues raised in the paper circulated by Hon. Opposition Leader has been covered in the PDNA. The report appears to have studied sectoral issues in each affected district, and should be taken as the basis of future actions. There is urgent need to focus on housing, with emphasis on identification of those zones where future construction should not be permitted. The availability of resources has to be clearly spelt out. There should be quick and efficient procedures for registrations and approvals. A cluster approach could be adopted for housing. In the case of water management, it is a matter of concern that the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee report were not fully implemented. There should be a robust institutional mechanism to ensure proper management.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala pointed out that the cluster approach may not be feasible given the dispersed nature of losses. A carefully planned approach is needed particularly to address sewerage issues in areas prone to water logging. A separate note on housing is being prepared and will be submitted.

Shri V Suresh opined that the PDNA is quite comprehensive. The losses and damages to the housing sector have been covered, and the apprehensions expressed by Hon. Opposition Leader are adequately addressed in the report. The PDNA has not covered the water supply and sewerage sectors adequately. This is an opportunity to develop resilient house construction systems.

Shri Mathew T Thomas, Hon. Minister observed that many studies will be needed in the WASH sectors, and technical assistance should be provided to the departments. The entire water supply system in the Kuttanad area was affected, and there is need to strengthen and expand the system in the area.

Shri MuraleeThummarukkudy observed that the note on Kuttanad indicated the need for raising the height of the bunds whereas the present approach is to open the bunds in tune with the 'room for the river' approach. A comprehensive study has to be undertaken. We should move away from the tendency to adopt only those recommendations that advocated strengthening of the bunds. Also, the unscientific and unplanned construction of culverts and bridges across canals contributed to the floods. A plan keeping in mind the next hundred years has to be prepared.

Shri V K Ramachandran, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board, informed that the Board is doing a detailed project on Kuttanad basin that will examine all previous reports, and involve experts and stakeholders. Shri K P Kannan pointed out that there are several studies that recommended that saline incursion should not be prevented, and the bund closure should be regulated. Recent research has provided a new approach, which is included in the PDNA. This needs to be considered carefully.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala pointed out that there have been three floods in recent times. Wherever the bunds were strengthened, there was no flooding of padasekharams. The problem is to provide effective draining of flood water, which has been affected due to silting. There should be a study in order to determine the most effective method of closing and opening of the bund. There should also be an examination of sewage treatment systems in Kuttanad. Agricultural practices will have to be revisited, as the present practice is resulting in pollution of the water.

Shri V Suresh pointed out that a comprehensive study of the hydraulic path of rivers should be undertaken in the long term.

Housing

In the housing sector, pre-fab technology can be used in cluster housing, but may not be practical when it comes to individual house rebuilding. Other agencies like Kudumbasree should be utilised, as it will strengthen the local economy.

Shri K P Kannan observed that the concept of 'core housing' should be encouraged, where the amount provided by government is used to build the core of the house which can be expanded later. Local bodies may add to the amount provided as relief, by creating a reconstruction fund the local level. Local variations in designs should be encouraged.

Hon. Chief Minister pointed out that there should be equity in distributing housing relief, with the same type design across affected areas. There should not be any disparity in the rebuilding initiative. While agreeing with these views, Shri Ramesh Chennithala suggested that there should be a Housing Policy, with clear regulations and specifications. There should be disincentives also in the policy to discourage the wrong type of construction.

Shri MuraleeThummarukudy expressed agreement to this, suggesting that there should be careful zonal planning indicating the areas where house building was permissible. Increased tax should be introduce to discourage construction of massive houses, and there could be differential pricing of building materials also to achieve this objective.

Shri Tom Jose introduced the concepts of conducting Ideathon and development seminars with a view to elicit project ideas from the public. These were approved by the members. Shri V Suresh suggested that there should be seminars exclusively to address funding and financing options, and to mobilise resources for the rebuilding process.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala pointed out that it will be difficult to raise the resources needed without the central government permitting to borrow above the 3% limit currently set for the state. Finding funds through redesigning the annual plan of the state will only yield limited results. Shri V K Ramachandran informed the Council that the Planning Board is currently

working on the formulation of the annual plan for 2019-20, where these concerns will be sought to be addressed.

In his closing remarks, the Hon. Chief Minister thanked all the members for their views. He directed that the views and suggestions made in the meeting may be examined carefully while taking the next steps of the initiative.

The meeting came to a close at 1245 pm with the Chief Secretary thanking the Hon. Chief Minister and the members of the Advisory Council.

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) AT 02.30 P.M. ON 20 MARCH, 2019 AT CHIEF MINISTER'S CONFERENCE HALL, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT.

The meeting commenced at 03.10PM with the Hon. Chief minister in the chair. List of Advisory Council members who participated in the meeting is appended.

Chief Secretary briefly summarized the action taken so far after the devastating floods. He drew attention to the two reports - Immediate Recovery Program and Short-term Recovery Plan- prepared by Rebuild Kerala Initiative, which give details of the efforts taken by the State both in rehabilitation and recovery mode and the planning the State has done towards building a resilient Kerala in the coming financial year. He also pointed out that the World Bank and KfW have also come forward to assist the State in its rebuilding efforts by providing financial assistance for the purpose. Preliminary project proposals in this regard has been submitted to Department of Economic Affairs, Govt. of India. World Bank has offered to provide \$500 million for the projects as Development Policy Loan. Similarly, KfW has promised 90 million euros to the State as loan for meeting its developmental needs. The major action point at present is the preparation of DPRs. In the HLEC meeting held on 05/03/2019, it has been decided that for such projects where data is readily available, DPR can be prepared immediately. The Dept. of Economic Affairs, Govt. of India has given its accord to avail loan from multilateral agencies, subject to remarks and comments of Ministry of Home Affairs and Niti Ayog.

Hon. CM recalled the core principles upon which the RKI is built on. He observed that we have succeeded in bringing together experienced officials of various departments, other outside experts, World Bank officials etc. for a successful thought sharing exercise. This has resulted in generating a draft

developmental report/ plan which will soon be developed into detailed project reports. RKI has reviewed specific problems in every developmental sector and has tried to offer ways to address the problems. In RKDP, we have identified 11 key sectors which focus on the idea of disaster avoidance, resilience and eco-friendliness. The HLEC meeting held on 05/03/2019 discussed the document in detail and its way forward for execution. Financial planning and detailed plan in each sector shall be formulated soon. An amount of ₹31,000 crore is estimated to be required for the entire rebuilding process under RKI. Implementation of ready-to-go projects shall start in the beginning of the coming financial year itself. For the rest of the projects, studies wherever required should be completed in the earliest time possible. An amount of ₹2,200 crore is earmarked for various livelihood projects of several departments in the financial year 2019-20 budget.

CEO, RKI made a presentation on draft RKDP in which he elaborated on the sectoral priorities identified and the specific interventions required in each sector. He also drew attention of the Advisory Council to the draft Disaster Management Annual Work Plan 2019-20, which lays a perspective for community based disaster risk reduction (DRR) in line with the SENDAI framework adopted by India.

Hon. Minister for Water Resources emphasised the importance of strengthening the institutional setup of the implementing departments and equipping them with the latest technology and expert advice. This need to be taken care by the RKI. He further observed that processing of agricultural products and value addition should be given sufficient emphasis in the RKDP document. He proposed a classification of land use also.

Shri V. Suresh appreciated the efforts taken by RKI in developing the RKDP document. He suggested refering to the Vulnerability Atlas of India published by the Ministry of Housing and the digitized State/UT-wise Hazard Maps for

quick planning and implementation of housing sector reforms, establishing a centralised control of dams in the State for better water resources management, early finalisation of master plan for Urban Local Bodies(ULB) and adoption of the 2016 National Building Code.

Sri M A Yusuf Ali called for fast tracking the study and implementation of projects already identified as most of the sectors require immediate rebuilding efforts. He suggested to introduce a comprehensive insurance scheme for the farmers who are mostly the worst affected ones during a natural hazard. ULBs should start implementing the rebuilding process immediately so as to avoid further delay in setting the whole process rolling.

Sri. TKA Nair reiterated that the land use plan should be developed without any further delay. He emphasised the need for defining the role of district administration in implementing these projects. He also stressed the need for addressing the requirements of the fisharies sector where the institutional resources, though abundant, fail in co-ordination and implementation.

Sri KM Chandrasekhar observed that the procedural and institutional changes consume less time and hence should be addressed first. As developmental plans usually fail in implementation, RKI should be careful in institutionalizing the structures for the successful implementation of its plans. Initial focus should be on implementing Disaster Recovery and Disaster Management plans.

Shri Murali Thummarukudy suggested that the plans implemented by RKI should be environment friendly. At this stage prioritisation of projects should be undertaken. Ideally, completing a risk informed land use plan and urban master plan, integrated water resource management, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change should be set as priorities, in that order. The

support of the youth and diaspora, institution of Loka Kerala Sabha etc can be tapped in the implementation of projects.

Dr. KM Abraham explained that the strengthening of departments and Secretaries is taken seriously by RKI and Expressions of Interest (EoIs) have already been invited for the same. The inclusion of youth and diaspora in RKI activities will be discussed with Chief Secretary soon.

Chief Secretary affirmed that implementation of all the ready-to-go projects will be started immediately and will be completed at the earliest.

The meeting concluded at 4.45PM with CM thanking the participants.

List of Participants:

- 1. Sri. E.Chandrasekharan, Hon. Minister for Revenue& Housing.
- 2. Sri. K.Krishnankutty, Hon. Minister for Water Resources.
- 3. Sri. Ramachandran Kadannappalli, Hon. Minister for Ports, Museum, Archaeology & Archives.
- 4. Sri. A.K.Saseendran, Minister for Transport.
- 5. Sri.V.K.Ramachandran, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board.
- 6. Sri. Tom Jose, Chief Secretary.
- 7. Dr. K.M. Abraham, Former Chief Secretary.
- 8. Dr. Venu V, Chief Executive Officer, RKI.
- 9. Sri. M. Sivasankar, Secretary to CM.
- 10. Sri. T.K.A Nair, Former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister.
- 11. Sri. K.M.Chandrasekhar, Former Cabinet Secretary.
- 12. Dr. Suresh V, Former CMD, HUDCO
- 13. Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Chief Disaster Risk Reduction, UNEP (over Video Conference)
- 14. Sri. M.A. Yusuff Ali, CMD, Lulu Group International.