

**National Disaster Management Authority**  
**Guidelines on Minimum Standards of Relief**

**Introduction**

Disaster Management Act (Section 12) mandates National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to recommend Guidelines for minimum standards of relief to be provided to persons affected by disaster which shall include:

- (a) The minimum requirements to be provided in the relief camps in relation to shelter, food, drinking water, medical cover, sanitation
- (b) Special provisions to be made for widows and orphans.
- (c) *Ex gratia* assistance on account of loss of life as also assistance on account of damage to houses and for restoration of means of livelihood
- (d) Such other relief as may be necessary

According to Section 19 of the act, the State Authorities shall lay down detailed guidelines for providing standards of relief to persons affected by disaster in the state and such standards shall in no case be less than the minimum standards in the guidelines laid down by National Authority. Hence, NDMA, as mandated by the Act, has worked out the basic minimum standards of relief to be provided to the persons affected by disaster.

Before finalizing the above Guidelines, various meetings were held in NDMA with the representatives of Nodal Ministries / Departments of Govt of India in which senior officials from State Govt. also participated to offer their valuable views. It was observed during the above meetings that the Guidelines on Minimum Standards need to be simple and implementable by the States.

