

SET UP ADVISORY BODIES TO STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

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'Set up advisory body for state disaster management authorities'

MANGALURU, DHNS: Mangaluru-based doctor and Centre for Health and Development Chief Executive Dr Edmond Fernandes has filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court seeking the court's intervention to direct the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Offices of the Chief Ministers and Principal Secretaries - Revenue (Disaster Management) to take appropriate steps to set up advisory body at the State Disaster Management Authority in all the states.

As per the Disaster Management Act 2005, it is mandatory to have an advisory body at the State Disaster Management Authority.

In the PIL, Dr Fernandes Vs Union of India and others, the petitioner has prayed to the court to order the formation of such a body involving all stakeholders, like public health doctors, public health engineers, social scientists, architects, town planners and journalists so that disaster preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation are effectively carried out with proper drills and capacity building exercises from time to time.

The petitioner has stated in the PIL that he has been deeply moved by the tragic stories of loss and grief during disasters

as people work a lifetime to build something and nature takes it down in few minutes. The need to give attention to disaster management is long overdue, he has said.

The petitioner has also said that 2015 was the hottest year on record and India was among the top three countries in the world hit by disaster and having a economic loss worth \$3.30 billion.

"On an average, India losses \$10 billion per year due to disaster. The idea to achieve sustainable development goals will be an exercise in futile submis-

sion if we do not prepare for addressing the grave public health issue of disaster management and prevent a watershed moment for development. Disasters lead to disruption of health services, damages infrastructure, affects agriculture and creates livestock losses besides compromising on security for women, children and elderly. Rapidly proliferating climate change are compelling enough to review, strengthen and institutionalize risk reduction, multi-sectoral capacity building and emergency public health preparedness," he said.

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Mangaluru based Doctor has filed a Public Interest Litigation in Supreme Court of India praying that the Hon'ble Court Direct all Chief Ministers of States in India to set up advisory bodies to State Disaster Management Authorities as per Disaster Management Act 2005, Section 17, Sub-section II.