6. LOOKING AHEAD IN THE NEXT DECADE

6.1 Based on the experience of the last Decade in dealing with natural disasters of drought, flood and cyclone in India, a National Mission named "Natural Disaster Management Information Services Through Space Technologies" is in the process of being launched in India on an operational scale during 1999-2003 for the entire country.

6.2 Population pressure, environmental degradation, irrigation and unplanned urbanisation are some of the major factors contributing to increased vulnerability in the country. As such need has been felt to accelerate the pace of disaster mitigation efforts in the country. It is planned to lay more emphasis on the following areas:

- linkage of disaster mitigation with development plans;
- effective communication system;
- use of latest information technology;
- insurance in all relevant sectors;
- extensive public awareness and education campaigns particularly in the rural areas;
- legal and legislative support;
- greater involvement of NGOs/private sector.

6.3 The natural disasters like floods, earthquake and cyclones cause havoc in more than one country simultaneously. It underlines the necessity for coordinated regional action in order to strengthen all aspects of disaster management wherever possible by learning from one another and by sharing experiences. Regional co-operation for effective disaster management system is needed broadly hazard and vulnerability analysis, and human resource development.

6.4 Hazards reduction programme in Andhra Pradesh

Based on the outcome of the activities during the Decade the State has planned to undertake the following work:

- Revision of the policy for long term hazard reduction.
- Planning and development of control measures to reduce future hazards relating to economic activities, siting and construction of new infrastructure.
- Planning and development of control framework for coastal, delta region, and watershed will be evolved.
- Community participation to undertake Hazard Mitigation activities in future.

6.5 Preparation of Seismotectonic Atlas of India

The Geological Survey of India has included the preparation of Seismotectonic Atlas of India in its programme of work which will consist of 43 sheets of maps covering 3° longitude x 4° latitude in each sheet to scale of 1:1 m. The Maps will be of derived nature than a multi element data base, and intended to include earthquake data, gravity data, magnetic data, stress field data, geothermal data, geological faults, medium and major lineaments and geodetic data. Seismotectonic maps so generated could be used for the seismic hazard risk assessment and preparation of reliable seismic zoning map of India.

6.6 Suggestions for the Next Decade

For rapid progress towards appreciable reduction in the disastrous impact of natural hazards, the policy of the governments may include the following:

- To invest on Global Observations and Early Warning Systems, and to give a boost to the science of observation and measurement on which the real progress will depend.
- To enhance the scientific content of prediction methodologies and reliability of Forecasts.
- To map the Hazards on a large scale, and link the maps intimately with the process of Development Planning.
- To foster, closer partnerships with financial and legal institutions, insurance companies, community based organisations and industry.
- To create an all India Institutional Network, to involve in Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation Management and Prevention.
- To invest more on public awareness, education, training and human resource development in the area of Disaster Mitigation.