Mumbai: Maharashtra suffered a
loss of nearly Rs 16,000 crore in the
last three years due to floods.
Principal secretary (relief and
rehabilitation) M Ramesh Kumar
made a detailed presentation before
the state disaster management auth-
ority, headed by chief minister Vila-
srao Deshmukh, a week ago in this
connection. "Besides a post-mortem
of the past three floods, we discussed
the preparedness for the ongoing
monsoon, particularly the meteor-
ological and hydrological risks," a
senior official told TOI on Monday.

Financially, the break-up of the
loss caused by flooding in the last

three years was: Rs 8,576.97 crore in
2005, Rs 5,393.54 crore in 2006 and Rs
2,000 crore in 2007. .
The official pointed out that there
was a loss of 1,100 human lives in
2005, 423 in 2006 and 760 in 2007. The
first two years witnessed the biggest-
ever damage to houses, as more than
13 lakh dwellings were destroyed;
in 2007, the figure was 74,000.
It was found that all districts in
the state were vulnerable to hydro-
meteorological disasters and that
there was a need to boost the capa-
city of the administrations to tack-
le floods. Efforts should also be made
to reduce dependence on the armed
forces, it was observed.

On the current preparations, the

A DEEP SENSE OF LOSS

official stated that besides setting
up a district-level disaster manage-
ment authority headed by a collec-
tor, regional disaster management

centres have also been set up at hea-
dquarters of the civic corporations.
Further, the government has pro-
cured 60 inflatable rubber boats,
including five for the BMC. The
boats have been allotted to sensitive
districts and the collectors have been
asked to ensure that the equipment
were made operational,
A new aspect of disaster man-
agement is the adoption of meas-
ures to mitigate lightning risks. The
state has decided to instal lightning
arrestors at vulnerable locations in
open areas—two per district on a pi-
lot basis. Lightning arrestors have
been made compulsory for G+3
government structures, schools and
community buildings, irrespective

of the number of storeys.
On the rehabilitation of flood-
affected villages (2005), the official
said wok had been completed in 60
of the 69 affected places. Land was
not available in seven villages and
protection work had been taken up
in two places. The rehabilitation of
villages affected in 2006 and 2007 was
in different stages of completion.
The official said re-demarcation
of red and blue lines was in full
swing for the monsoon. Of the 3,993
villages in Pune, Nashik, Aura-
ngabad, Konkan, Nagpur and Amra-
vati divisions, re;

demarcation in
2,941 villages had been completed,
while work was in progress in 1,052.
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Floods cost state Rs. 16,000 cr in three years

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