

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 125 FOR ANSWER ON 27.12.2017

Cyclone 'Ockhi' hit south of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and L&M (Lakshadweep & Minicoy) Islands on 30th November 2017. Search and Rescue (SAR) operations by Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commenced immediately and all assets (ships, aircrafts, helicopters) available with them were put into SAR operations. IN, ICG, Indian Air Force (IAF), Coastal Police and other agencies acted in coordination to develop synergy in SAR efforts.

Earlier, based on the inputs received from India Meteorological Department (IMD), advisories were issued to Civil Administration and Fisheries Authorities of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep to take necessary precautions and avoid fishing due to adverse sea conditions. ICG / IN units at sea also warned the fishing boats about the likely deterioration of weather and advised them to return to harbour or take shelter. Further advisories were also issued to Merchant Vessels through the International Safety Net on 01, 02, 03 and 05th December 2017 for rendering assistance to stranded fishing boats or distressed fishermen while transiting through the cyclone area. The Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN) was used to maintain communication with all the SAR Units operating close to coast for better SAR coordination. Also, continuous communication was maintained with the local fishing associations and inputs received from them were factored in the SAR plans. The IN / ICG has been in continuous liaison with the State Government of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the L&M Islands for conduct of SAR operations. Control and Coordination Centre at Joint Operations Centre (JOC) Kochi, with participation from all stakeholders coordinated with District Administrations of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the L&M Islands.

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In the rescue operations carried out by IN, ICG and IAF, as on 20.12.2017, a total number of 821 lives have been saved / rescued. In addition, 24 lives have been saved / rescued by other Agencies (Merchant Vessels, Trawler, etc.). The details of State-wise lives saved / rescued are as under:-

State / UT	No. of Lives Saved / Rescued
Tamil Nadu	453
Kerala	362
Lakshadweep & Minicoy (L&M)	30
Total:	845

The Fisheries Department of the concerned State Government are responsible for providing information of missing fishermen. However, as per the details available with Government of India, the State-wise details of missing fishermen as on 15.12.2017 are as under:-

State / UT	No. of Missing Fishermen
Tamil Nadu	400
Kerala	261
Lakshadweep & Minicoy (L&M)	00
Total:	661

National Disaster Management Authority being the apex body in the Government has formulated a National Disaster Management Plan under which efforts of the State Government are supplemented by providing logistic and financial support in cases of natural calamities of severe nature.