## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE LOK SABHA

## **STARRED QUESTION NO.125**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

## CYCLONE OCKHI

\*125. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE j{kk ea=h be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the action taken by the Ministry in connection with rescue operations undertaken by defence forces in areas affected by Ockhi cyclone along with the number of fishermen rescued and the number of fishermen missing as per the information of defence department, State-wise;
- (b) the action taken by the Ministry to find out the missing fishermen and to give warning to the fishermen directly through the defence department with the support of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO);
- (c) the mechanism followed by the defence department in co-operation with the State Governments so as to speed up the disaster management; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to introduce a better mechanism for permanent disaster management system with the co-ordination of all the concerned departments of Central Government and State Governments and if so, the details thereof?

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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## 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 05<sup>th</sup> 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 all stakeholders coordinated participation from with District Administrations of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the L&M Islands.

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:-

No. of Lives Saved / Rescued
453
362
30
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.

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