

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING & FISHERIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3347
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST JANUARY, 2019

SAFETY AND EMPLOYMENT OF FISHERMEN

3347. SHRI RAJENDRA D. GAVIT :
PROF.RICHARD HAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in view of the fact that Ockhi cyclone devastated the lives of hundreds of fishermen in Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the States prepared to meet such natural calamities in future;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by the respective States to deal with such gargantuan natural calamities;
- (c) whether the respective States submitted any report about the number of actual dead and fishermen still missing, if so, the number of dead and still missing according to the figures given by them;
- (d) the measures taken by the respective Governments to safeguard the lives of fishermen living near the coastal villages and who venture into the high seas, the details thereof;
- (e) whether marine ambulances, life jackets and communication gadgets and other safety materials were provided to fishermen in the country to safeguard their lives;
- (f) whether there is any proposal of the Union Government to set up a marine safety squad who could ensure safety and security of the fishermen in the country; and
- (g) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps and/or formulated any schemes for enhancing the employment opportunities of fishermen and their families as well as for economic development in the ocean sector by starting MSMEs for producing value added products in the fisheries sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE & FARMER'S WELFARE:

(SMT. KRISHNA RAJ)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. As per the details furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the State has established central control room at State and District levels to communicate weather warning messages received from Regional Meteorological centre and other agencies to alert deep sea fishing boats; established facilities to communicate weather warning alerts through Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy etc; supplied various vessel communication equipments to deep sea fishing boats; provided wireless communication equipment (VHF sets) to 15,004 motorized crafts and 2,535 mechanised fishing boats for the benefit of seagoing fishermen; set up 18 communication towers along the states coast and are functioning effectively.

As per details received from Government of Kerala, a communication equipment 'Navic' has been developed with the technical support of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for communicating weather warning to fishermen upto 1500 Km; developed mobile application named 'Sagara' for registration of details of fishermen at the time of entry and exit of sea; established a state level master control room and three sub control units at three zones to disseminate weather warnings and to coordinate joint rescue operations with the help of Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Police and Marine Enforcement Wing of Department of Fisheries.

(c) Government of Tamil Nadu reported that 27 fishermen died and 177 went missing in Tamil Nadu, whereas, Government of Kerala reported that 51 fishermen died and 92 fishermen are still missing in Kerala due to Ockhi cyclone.

(d) & (e) Government of Tamil Nadu reported that besides the details stated at (a) and (b) sanctioned Rs. 3.10 crore for procurement and supply of vessel communication equipments to 80 cluster of boats engaged in deep sea fishing and agencies engaged in disaster management measures; proposed to provide satellite phones, 'Navic' message receiver and NAVTEX to deep sea fishing boats; supplied 1600 numbers of Distress Alert Transmitters (DATs) to mechanized fishing boats and motorized country crafts; installed 433 transponders in mechanized fishing boats; distributed 49,500 life buoy to fisher men of traditional country craft to safeguard life during fishing.

Government of Kerala reported that besides the details stated at (a) and (b) distributed 40,000 life jackets to sea going fishermen; proposed for rehabilitation of fisher folk families from 50 m high tide line to safer locations by giving special assistance for purchase of land and house.

(f) Government of Kerala reported that State has set up 60 sea rescue squad unit in all maritime districts in which fishermen are also included.

(g) Yes Madam. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) is implementing an umbrella Scheme called 'Blue Revolution' through which financial assistance is provided to the States/ UTs for livelihood and employment opportunities of fishermen by undertaking various production oriented fisheries activities including value addition to fishes, capacity building and welfare measures like construction of houses for fishers and creation of other basic amenities such as drinking water facility & community halls, insurance coverage for fishers is also provided under the scheme. As a part of socio economic development of fishermen, Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that assistance were provided for undertaking income generating fisheries related activities such as processing units for production of value added fish products, setting up of modern fish kiosks in coastal districts operated by members of women cooperative societies, sea weed culture and value addition, solar lantern fabrication and servicing, and production of sea shell ornaments.
