

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.396

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2018

ROLE OF ICG IN CYCLONE

396. SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has initiated pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives and to reduce impact from Cyclone Gaja and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of ICG ships and Dornier aircraft that were pressed into action during pre and post Gaja cyclone;
- (c) the number of community interaction programmes conducted by ICG to sensitise fishermen and coastal population for taking safety measures for the Gaja cyclone;
- (d) the number of fishermen rescued and the number of fishermen missing along with the action taken by the Government to find out the missing fishermen;
- (e) the mechanism followed by the defence department in co-operation with the State Government to speed up the disaster management; and
- (f) further steps taken / being taken by the Ministry to introduce a better mechanism for permanent disaster management system with the co-ordination of all the concerned departments of Central / State-Governments?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Coast Guard has initiated the following pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives

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and to reduce impact from Cyclone Gaja:

- (i) ICG formations were put on high alert and high state of preparedness. Fisheries authorities, State authorities and local administration were warned for precautionary measures. Constant liaison had been made with the state administration, various departments and Indian Meteorological Department to ensure wide spread precautionary measures in the affected areas.
 - (ii) Indian Coast Guard Remote Operating Stations located in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and L&M Islands passed Security / Safety messages in local languages on VHF (very high frequency) to all fishing boats to return to harbour or take shelter in nearest port.
 - (iii) Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft were deployed along the East and West coast in advance for issuance of advisories and warnings in vernacular languages to fishermen at sea for safe return to ports.
 - (iv) International Safety Net (ISN) was activated one week in advance of approach of cyclone Gaja in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea by Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (Chennai / Mumbai) requesting transiting Merchant vessels to advise and warn fishermen to return to harbour / take shelter at nearest fishing harbour and render assistance, if required.
- (b) 10 ICG ships and 10 Dornier aircraft were pressed into action during pre Gaja cyclone. 13-15 ICG ships and 6 Dornier aircraft and 01 helicopter was tasked off Karaikal / Nagapatnam for assessment post Gaja cyclone.
- (c) Special Community Interaction programmes were conducted at 11 places at Milamanakudi (Kanyakumari), Mandapam, Ramesvaram, Mudasalodai (Cuddalore), Kasimedu (Chennai), Arketpalem, Gummalladibba (Nellore), Nizampatnam, Dhumalpetta, Uppada and Vishakhapatnam for fishermen and coastal populace for undertaking safety measures.
- (d) 946 fishing boats were reported to return due to warnings by ICG ships / aircrafts and Remote Operating Stations. Indian Coast Guard assisted in shifting about 1500 fishing boats south of Pamban bridge. No information has been received regarding missing fishing boats / missing fishermen.

(e) & (f): As per the Disaster Management Act, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) are mandated to deal with all types of disasters; natural or man-made. The Armed Forces are called upon to assist the civil administration when the situation is beyond their coping capability. ICG form an important part of the Government's response capacity and are immediate responders in all serious Coastal disaster situations. ICG has prepared Standard Operating Procedures for Disaster Management and the SOPs have been percolated to all formations and has made efforts for capacity building and training of ICG personnel. ICG units maintain close liaison and coordination with all State and District Authorities.
