

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4551**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH JANUARY, 2019/ PAUSHA 18, 1940 (SAKA)

PHETHAI CYCLONE

**4551. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether severe cyclonic storm 'Phethai' has struck several parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details of losses suffered and the number of States that have been severely affected along with the number of people killed, injured and missing, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of cyclone 'Phethai' on fishermen and damage caused by it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the amount of relief sought by the affected States and the assistance provided/ likely to be provided by the Government; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for co-ordination of all the concerned departments of Central/State Government to minimize the losses due to such type of calamities in future?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) to (e): A Cyclonic storm 'Phethai' crossed north Andhra coast near Latitude 16.55°N and Longitude 82.25°E, at about 40 km south of Kakinada between 1330 to 1430 hours on 17th December 2018. As per report from the State Government, 01 person is reported injured, 205 houses/ huts, 56

units of boats & nets damaged and 62845.26 ha. cropped area has been reported as affected due to cyclonic storm 'Phethai' in Andhra Pradesh during 2018. No damage is reported from other States in this regard.

In the instant case, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought an assistance of Rs. 142.12 crore for cyclonic storm 'Phethai' of 2018. Financial assistance is provided from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per established procedure. The concerned State Governments undertake relief measures according to the magnitude of the ground situation, in the wake of natural disasters, including cyclone, from SDRF already placed at their disposal in accordance with Government of India approved items and norms without any discrimination. In order to support the affected people of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of India has released both the installments of Rs. 458.10 crore from SDRF and Rs. 592.74 crore from NDRF to State Government for management of relief necessitate by notified natural calamities during 2018-19. The State of Andhra Pradesh has a total of Rs.1,050.84 crore available for providing relief to the disaster affected areas of the State including by Phethai Cyclone.

(f): As per the National Disaster Management Policy, the primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the States. There are institutional mechanisms at the National and State level in the country to develop appropriate preparedness, and prompt response mechanism for

effective management of natural disasters including mobilizing resources, taking necessary measures to educate people at the time of natural calamities which include increasing awareness/ forewarning/ mock drills on various calamities/ sensitizing people involving the stake holders at the State/ District & local Governments level including rural areas and reduce/ minimize the losses during/ impending such type of natural calamities in States of the country.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) monitors Severe Weather and alert State Meteorological Centers (SMCs)/ Regional Meteorological Centers (RMCs) about occurrence of severe weather in their region through daily Nowcast Guidance and Forecast Demonstration Project (FDP). State Meteorological Centers (SMCs) issues three hourly Nowcast and issue warnings through SMS at district level as and when necessary. IMD maintains and upgrades the Nowcast webpage and website to include information of severe weather events and monitor quality of various tools for nowcasting such as Radar and satellite data, and ensure interact with relevant divisions to ensure quality upkeep.

The measures as taken by the Government of India and the State Governments are expected to improve the existing disaster management practices, preparedness, prevention, & enhance the response mechanism and minimizing the effects of natural calamities in the country. Further, the strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing and evolving process of the governance.