



REPORT NO.

216

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON HOME AFFAIRS

TWO HUNDRED SIXTEENTH REPORT

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE TWO
HUNDRED ELEVENTH REPORT ON THE CYCLONE OCKHI-ITS IMPACT ON
FISHERMEN AND DAMAGE CAUSED BY IT**

(PRESENTED TO RAJYA SABHA ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2019)

(LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2019)



Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
February, 2019/Magha, 1940 (Saka)



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*to be appended at the printing stage

**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE
(re-constituted w.e.f. 1st September, 2018)**

1. **Shri P. Chidambaram** - **Chairman**

RAJYA SABHA

1. Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia
2. Shri Pratap Keshari Deb
3. Dr. V. Maitreyan
4. Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas
5. Shri Neeraj Shekhar
6. Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi
7. Shri R.K. Sinha
8. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy
9. @ Shri Rakesh Sinha

LOK SABHA

10. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan
11. Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra
12. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
13. Dr. (Shrimati) Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar
14. Shri Ramen Deka
15. Shri Prataprao Jadhav
16. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge
17. Shrimati Kirron Anupam Kher
18. Shri Ashwini Kumar
19. \$Vacant
20. Shri Faizal P.P. Mohammed
21. Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
22. Shri Nagarajan P.
23. Shri Jagdambika Pal
24. Dr. (Prof.) Prasanna Kumar Patasani
25. Shri Dilip M. Patel
26. Shri Lalubhai Babubhai Patel
27. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
28. Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati
29. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray
30. Shri S. Selvakumarachinnayan

SECRETARIAT

Dr. P.P.K. Ramacharyulu, Secretary
Shri Rohtas, Joint Secretary
Shri Vimal Kumar, Director
Dr. (Smt.) Subhashree Panigrahi, Additional Director
Shri Bhupendra Bhaskar, Additional Director
Shri Pritam Kumar, Under Secretary

@ Shri Rakesh Sinha, Member, Rajya Sabha nominated w.e.f. 14th December, 2018

\$ Vacant consequent upon resignation of Shri Harish Chandra Meena from Lok Sabha Seat (i.e., Dausa Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan) w.e.f. 24th December, 2018.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on its behalf, do hereby present this Two Hundred Sixteenth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations Contained in the Two Hundred Eleventh Report on 'The Cyclone Ockhi - Its Impact on Fishermen and damage caused by it'.

2. The Two Hundred Eleventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs was presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 4th April, 2018. After presentation/laying of the Report, the copies thereof were sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs requesting them to furnish Action Taken Notes on the recommendations of the Committee contained in the Report. The Ministry furnished the Action Taken Notes on the said report to the Committee on 18th July, 2018.

3. The Committee has noted that the statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the said Report of the Committee has been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 12th and 18th December, 2018 respectively in pursuant to the direction of Chairman, Rajya Sabha dated 24th September 2004.

4. The Committee considered the draft Two Hundred Sixteenth Report and adopted the same at its meeting held on 5th February, 2019.

5. The recommendations/observations of the Committee are printed in bold letters.

5th February, 2019
New Delhi
Magha, 1940 (Saka)

P. Chidambaram
Chairman
Department-related Parliamentary
Standing Committee on Home Affairs

ACRONYMS

ACWCs	Area Cyclone Warning Centres
CWCs	Cyclone Warning Centres
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CIFNET	Central Fisheries Nautical Engineering Technology
DSS	Decision Support System
DES	Delhi Earth Station
EPS	Ensemble Prediction System
GFS	Global Forecasting System
GEFS	Global Ensemble Forecasting System
IMD	Indian Meteorological Department
IMCT	Inter-Ministerial Central Team
ISRO	Indian Space Research Organization
INCOIS	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service
IMAC	Information Management and Analysis Centre
IITM	Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
MoES	Ministry of Earth Science
MME	Multi Model Ensemble
MSS	Mobile Satellite Service
MHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NAVIC	Navigation with Indian Constellation
NWP	Numerical Weather Prediction
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NCEP	National Centre for Environment prediction
NERC	Natural Environment Research Council
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NADP	National Agriculture Development Programme
NDRF	National Disaster Response Force
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
NCMRWF	National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting
NCSMCS	National Committee for strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security
OHC	Ocean Heat Content
PMNRF	Prime Minister's National Relief Fund
PMAY	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
POC	Proof of Concept
RI	Rapid intensification
RW	Rapid Weakening
SOP	Standing Operating Procedure
SDRF	State Disaster Response Force
SST	Sea Surface temperature
SC-NEC	Sub Committee of National Executive Committee
TAFCOFED	Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperative Federation
TWO	Tropical Weather Outlook
UM	Unified Model

UMEPS	Unified Model Ensemble Positioning System
UKMO	United Kingdom Meteorological Office
WRF	Weather Research Forecast
WCSSP	Weather & Climate Science for Service Partnership Programme

Report

The Action Taken Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Eleventh Report of the Committee on 'The Cyclone Ockhi - Its Impact on Fishermen and Damage Caused by it'. The Two Hundred Eleventh Report was presented to Rajya Sabha /laid on the Table of Lok Sabha, on 4th April, 2018.

2. Action Taken Notes as received from the Ministry of Home Affairs in respect of the recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Eleventh Report have been categorized as follows:

Chapter I: The recommendations/observations, which have been accepted by the Government: Para Nos. 1.3.8, 1.3.9, 1.3.13, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.11, 3.1.10, 3.2.17 and 3.3.8 (of Two Hundred Eleventh Report)

Total recommendations- 9

The Committee is pleased to note that the Ministry has accepted its recommendations as mentioned in Chapter-I of the Report.

Chapter II: The recommendations/observations which the Committee does not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: Para Nos. 3.1.18 and 3.3.9 (*ibid*)

Total recommendations - 2

The Committee is convinced with the explanations furnished by the Ministry and, therefore, does not want to pursue the recommendations further.

Chapter III: The recommendations/observations in respect of which the Committee is not satisfied with the replies of the Ministry: Para Nos. 2.2.12, 3.1.6, 3.2.12 and 3.2.18 (*ibid*)

Total recommendations - 4

The Committee expresses its concern over the non-implementation of its recommendations contained in Chapter-III and desires that the Ministry should furnish convincing action taken steps in respect of those recommendations.

Chapter IV: The recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received: Para Nos. 2.3.5, 2.4.10, 3.1.14 and 3.2.5 (*ibid*)

Total Recommendations - 4

In respect of 4 recommendations in Chapter-IV, the Ministry has either furnished interim reply or couched its response in vague terms. Therefore, the Committee desires that the Ministry should furnish pointed and detailed Action Taken Notes in respect of the recommendations categorized in Chapters III and IV in keeping with the spirit of the recommendation.

3. The details of the ATNs have been analyzed in the succeeding chapters.

Chapter-I

Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government

1.1 Cyclone Warning and Forecasting

Recommendation

1.1.1 The Committee takes note of the submission by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) that cyclone Ockhi was an unusual phenomenon, which was evident in its rapid intensification. The committee understands that forecasting rapid intensification of cyclones remains an area of concern. However, the committee wishes to stress upon the fact that rapid intensification of cyclones is no longer a rare phenomenon and globally, several countries have evolved credible prediction models for this phenomenon. The committee is of the opinion that the prediction of rapid intensification of cyclones is imperative, to bolster our existing capacity for advance cyclone warning. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the IMD should focus on intensive research to develop forecasting models for the prediction of the “Rapid Intensification” phenomenon. The Committee also recommends that the IMD must acquire inputs on sea surface temperatures from thermal satellites and integrate them into the cyclone forecasting models to make the prediction of cyclones like Ockhi more accurate.

(Para 1.3.8 of 211th Report)

Action taken

1.1.2 The following crucial steps have been taken by the Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) & Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to enhance the Early warning capabilities:-

- (a) The Sea Surface temperature (SST) and Ocean Heat Content (OHC) anomaly products to be prepared and are made available to forecasters in IMD on daily basis by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS).
- (b) Examination and evaluation of various models is carried out in MoES for cyclone forecasting including Global Forecasting System (GFS), Global Ensemble Forecasting System (GEFS), Unified Model (UM) and Unified Model Ensemble Positioning System (UMEPS), for prediction of rapid intensification. The impact of resolution, data assimilation, physics, and ensemble approach along with Vortex generation / relocation in these models is also examined.
- (c) NWP Division of IMD and various R&D institutes are taking up the studies to develop intensity prediction model/Rapid intensification (RI) and Rapid Weakening (RW) models based on various environmental parameters including Ocean Heat Content.
- (d) Ocean atmosphere coupled Hurricane Weather Research & Forecast Model has the potential to predict intensity more accurately. Hence it is being made operational in collaboration with INCOIS.

1.1.3 The INCOIS, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), IMD (Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Division) have been informed to take necessary action as mentioned above.

Further Recommendation

1.1.4 The Committee notes the Reply.

Recommendation

1.1.5 The Committee understands that cyclones like Ockhi are likely to happen more frequently in the future due to the effects of global warming. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the IMD must learn from the best practices being followed globally to improve prediction of such phenomenon. If necessary, research should be undertaken to predict such cyclones in collaboration with international organisations.

(Para 1.3.9 ibid)

Action Taken

1.1.6 There has been continuous up-gradation and enhancement of early warning capability of India Meteorological Department (IMD) by multi prong approach. One of the most important initiatives has been collaboration with Academic and R&D Institutes to improve early warning services. A few notable initiatives taken up in recent years are as follows:

- a) Bilateral agreement with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA and UK Met. Office for improvement in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) modelling with respect to global forecast system and Unified Model respectively. This collaboration also aims to improve and operationalize the Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) for probabilistic forecast based on Global Ensemble Forecasting System (GEFS). MoES has adapted global models from USA and UK under the bilateral cooperation for forecasting of cyclones. Global Forecasting System (GFS) with a resolution of 12 km. and GEFS with a resolution of 23 km. have been adapted from National Centre for Environment prediction (NCEP), NOAA, USA and being used to provide forecast upto 7 days. Similarly, the Unified Model (UM) and unified Model Ensemble Prediction System (UMEPS) have been adapted from United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO), UK to provide forecast upto 7 days.
- b) The regional models like Weather Research Forecast (WRF) and Unified Model (Regional Model) have been implemented in IMD with this collaboration.
- c) A bilateral collaboration between India and United States involving National Centre for Environment Prediction (NCEP), USA, IMD, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar has resulted in experimental implementation of high resolution of Ocean Atmosphere Coupled Model viz. Hurricane Weather Research & Forecast Model for north Indian Ocean with a resolution of 2,6,18 km.
- d) The collaborative research & development has been taken up between IMD, IIT Delhi and INCOIS for development of storm surge and coastal inundation model for operational forecasting by IMD.

- e) UK's Newton-Bhabha Fund along with Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and UK Met Office are collaborating with MoES for launching Weather & Climate Science for Service Partnership Programme (WCSSP)-India program to work upon seamless ensemble coupled system development across scales, Model & Observations evaluation of monsoon processes & hazards and risk based forecasting & high impact weather/seasonal events including cyclones.
- f) A Decision Support System (DSS) for forecasting and early warning has been established by Meteo France International and operational since 2009.
- g) Further review will be made on the best practices being followed globally to improve prediction of such phenomenon. In order to further understand the best practices being followed globally, visit of scientists from IMD and other international centres will be facilitated for exchange of views and improvement of warning mechanism.

Further Recommendation

1.1.7 The Committee notes the Reply.

Recommendation

1.1.8 The Committee takes note of the submissions by the IMD that the prediction of cyclone Ockhi, due to its rapid intensification, was quite difficult. The Committee observes that the usual Standard Operating Procedure of issuing cyclone watch and an alert could not be followed by the Area Cyclone Warning Centres (ACWC) and the Cyclone Warning Centres when the depression developed on 28th November and intensified rapidly into a cyclonic storm on 29th November, 2017. However, the Committee feels that with the increase in sea temperatures due to global warming, the prediction, of both the path and the intensity of cyclones, will become more difficult in the future. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Central Government should develop a Standard Operating Procedure for such unpredictable cyclones in collaboration with other developed countries and international organisations, so that the prediction of such unusual and rare phenomenon becomes more reliable in the coming times.

(Para 1.3.13 ibid)

Action Taken

1.1.9 Already IMD has initiated review of its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on cyclones. As regards other global centres, SOPs of developed centres are taken into consideration while considering the same over Indian region.

1.1.10 It may be mentioned here that globally genesis forecast is issued in terms of Tropical Weather Outlook (TWO). National Hurricane Centre, USA issues TWO valid for next five days. NHC gives track and intensity forecast from cyclone stage upto 120 hrs. (five days). Japan Meteorological Agency issues 3 days' genesis forecast for formation of tropical storm. The track and intensity forecast is issued for next 72 hours. IMD issued genesis forecast in TWO valid for next 72 hours. The IMD issues track and intensity forecast valid for next 5 days.

1.1.11 However, as per recommendation, the Standing Operating Procedure (SOPs) of developed countries will be reviewed to update the SOP of IMD with respect to cyclone warning

services. Based on the lessons learnt from Ockhi, following modifications have already been suggested in the SOP on cyclone:

- (a) IMD has extended validity period of genesis forecast in its daily 'Two' from three days to five days.
- (b) Considering the fact that north Indian Ocean is a small basin, the life period of the cyclonic disturbances (between the time of genesis and time of landfall) is relatively less and there is possible rapid intensification near the coast, the objective track and intensity forecasts will be issued from depression stage against the current practice of deep depression stage onwards in case the depression is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm and cross the coast.
- (c) Modification of SOP for genesis over landlocked sea areas and coastal water will be made by IMD. The existing SOP regarding issue of Pre Cyclone Watch (72 hours in advance), Cyclone Alert (48 hours in advance), Cyclone Warning (24 hours in advance) and Post Landfall Outlook (12 hours prior to landfall) is applicable for the TCs developing over open sea like central Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea. It is not applicable to the systems developing in land locked areas or near the coast and under most rapidly intensifying scenario. In such situation, a Cyclone Alert can be issued directly without issuing the Pre-Cyclone Watch and Cyclone Warning can be issued directly without issuing Cyclone Alert/Pre-Cyclone Watch. The genesis, location, it's distance from expected coast and expected number of days for landfall will decide the possibilities of providing all cycles of cyclone warning SOP.
- (d) Special Bulletins will be issued by Cyclone Warning Centres (CWCs) and Area Cyclone Warning Centres (ACWCs) to concerned disaster management agencies from low pressure stage, if it is expected to intensify further. IMD has already started this practice. During recent depression over Arabian Sea during 13th-15th March, Special Bulletins commenced from 11th March itself at the stage of low pressure area.

1.1.12 To carry out the above, following modeling efforts will be made:

- Dynamical statistical model for genesis prediction will be run twice a day from the stage of well-marked low pressure area to provide forecast for cyclogenesis (formation of depression and higher intensity) during next five days.
- Multi Model Ensemble (MME) Model will be run twice a day from stage of depression against existing practice of deep depression stage to provide track forecast for next five days.
- Dynamical statistical model for intensity prediction will be run twice a day to provide intensity forecast from depression stage for next five days.

1.1.13 All concerned in IMD and sister organisations in MoES have been advised accordingly.

Further Recommendation

1.1.14 The Committee notes the Reply.

1.2 Missing Fishermen

Recommendation

1.2.1 The Committee observes that the advisory issued on 29th November did not clearly predict a cyclonic storm and, therefore, it was not taken with the seriousness it deserved. Moreover, rapid intensification did not leave enough time for the IMD to issue a cyclone watch or alert and, therefore both the affected State Governments and the people were not sufficiently alert. Officially, a cyclone specific advisory was issued only on 30th November, the very date of the arrival of cyclone Ockhi but by then many fishermen would have already ventured out to sea. This was a clear departure from the Standard Operating Procedure wherein the first cyclone specific advisory, the Pre-cyclone Watch, is issued three days prior to the landfall of the cyclone. While rapid intensification of a cyclone is a reasonable justification for this omission, the fact remains that the State Government machinery and the people may not adequately understand the technicalities and therefore should be proactively informed in each case. The Committee is of the opinion that the advisory issued on 29th November, 2017 would have been taken more seriously had it clearly forewarned of an impending cyclone. The Committee recommends that the IMD should be more proactive and take every instance of weather disturbance with utmost seriousness in the future.

(Para 2.2.2 ibid)

Action Taken

1.2.2 Though cyclone warning could not be issued on 29th November, 2017, the heavy rainfall warning for south Kerala, south Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep was first issued at around noon of 28th November for occurrence during next 72 hours and was repeated on 28th and 29th November. First information regarding formation of depression during next 48-72 hours (i.e. 29th onwards) was issued on 28th November at 1200 hours IST in the Tropical Weather Outlook (available in IMD website).

1.2.3 In the first bulletin issued on 1150 IST of 29th Nov, IMD indicated the west-north westward movement of system and its emergence into Comorin area by 30th. It was also mentioned that the system would intensify further. The system emerged into Comorin Area during night of 29th and intensified into Deep Depression in the early hrs (0230 IST) of 30th and into Cyclonic Storm in the forenoon (0830 IST) of 30th Nov. 2017 (within six hours from deep depression stage). First wind warning for 45-55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph for south Kerala, south Karnataka and Lakshadweep was first issued at 1150 hrs IST of 29th November. First warning for fishermen along and off south Tamil Nadu, south Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands not to venture into sea was issued also at 1150 hrs IST of 29th November.

1.2.4 The deep depression unusually intensified into a cyclone Ockhi in 6 hours from 0230 hours to 0830 hours of 30th November morning over Comorin Sea. As a result, the cyclone specific advisory was issued from 30th Nov at 1155 hrs IST as per the protocol for south Tamil Nadu, South Kerala and Lakshadweep. Cyclone watch/alert could not be issued due to unusual rapid intensification over the Comorin Sea. It is quite different from cases of cyclone intensification that happens over central part of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. In those cases, usual provision of issuing cyclone alert/watch normally exists as per SOP. In this case, cyclone warning was to be issued directly on 30th morning only to enhance already initiated actions taken by respective state Govt. based on the regular bulletins issued by IMD since 29th November forenoon.

1.2.5 As advised, IMD will act more proactively for every instance of weather disturbance with utmost seriousness. IMD has also modified the SOP as mentioned under Actions by IMD under Para 1.3.13. As for example, In case of depression over Arabian Sea during 13-15 March, 2018 IMD, headquarter along with its concerned ACWCs, CWCs and MCs issued special bulletins to state and central disaster management agencies, media and public from 11th March itself, the stage of low pressure area.

Further Recommendation

1.2.6 The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Ministry has accepted its recommendation having regard to its importance.

Recommendation

1.2.7 The Committee also feels the advisory issued by the IMD might not have been given wide publicity in the mass media and through radio stations. This might be the reason for the concern raised regarding the absence of any prior warning or alert. The people should have been alerted through media channels and radio stations in a timely manner before cyclone Ockhi hit the coast. The Committee recommends that in the future, the Ministry should issue an advisory when there are weather disturbances, as a measure of a abundant precaution, to the State Governments. All the media units and radio stations in such States may be sensitized and instructed to give wide publicity, in a prioritized manner, to all the advisories, regarding any imminent disaster, issued by the IMD and the Area Cyclone Warning Centres/Cyclone Warning Centres.

1.2.8 The Committee also recommends that coastal communities, like fishermen, who are at grave risk due to disasters, may be regularly sensitized about the fact that certain natural disasters cannot be predicated well in advance and they must, in their own interest, strictly adhere to any advisories/warnings in the future.

(Para 2.2.3 ibid)

Action Taken

1.2.9 In order to sensitize general public and media to take the warnings issued by IMD in a serious manner, IMD is working upon improving co-ordination with central and state level disaster management agencies, media and general public by conducting user workshops at regular intervals in the coastal states, conducting pre-cyclone exercise twice a year in the month of April and September as per SOP of cyclones in the coastal states with concerned authorities. Fishermen awareness workshops are being organised by IMD for all coastal states in collaboration with the agencies of State Governments. The workshop with media including radio stations in the states will also be organised for all coastal states.

1.2.10 As recommended by the committee awareness workshops and awareness training on disaster management and risk communication is already being provided to coastal communities and is still continuing through Fisheries Department as a routine process.

1.2.11 As per standard protocol, the advisory issued by IMD are also re-circulated to the concerned State Governments by Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Further Recommendation

1.2.12 The Committee notes the reply.

Recommendation

1.2.13 *The Committee takes note of the efforts being made by the Government, in collaboration with ISRO, to address this challenge. The Committee recommends that the trial of the vessel tracking system, which consists of user terminals (transponders), installed in the fishing vessels and central hub to receive the tracking information, should be completed at the earliest and the Central and State Governments should provide all assistance and resources to ISRO for the purpose. The Committee also recommends that after the completion of the trial, the vessel tracking system should be expanded to cover every boat that ventures out for deep sea fishing and all the remaining boats may be equipped with Very High- Frequency sets and Distress Alert Transmitters, at subsidised rates.*

(Para 2.2.11 ibid)

Action Taken

1.2.14 As per the directives of National Committee for strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security (NCSMCS), a pilot project of implementing fitment of 1000 Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) based transponder terminals on sub-20m fishing vessels was undertaken by Special Projects, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) HQ. For the Proof of Concept (POC) demonstration, the fishing vessels registered in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu were selected.

1.2.15 The POC demonstration of these terminals have begun and planned to be completed as per the Implementation plan given in the table below:-

S. No	No. Of Terminals	Distribution to Fisheries Departments	Status
Proto-model deployment & testing			
1	12	4 to Gujarat; 8 to Tamil Nadu	Oct 31, 2017 (completed)
Version-1 deployment			
2	51	25 to Gujarat; 26 to Tamil Nadu	April 10, 2018 (completed)
Further trial plans			
3	100	50 to Gujarat; 50 to Tamil Nadu	May 15, 2018
4	150	75 to Gujarat; 75 to Tamil Nadu	May 31, 2018
5	300	150 to Gujarat; 150 to Tamil Nadu	June 30, 2018
6	399	200 to Gujarat; 199 to Tamil Nadu	July 31, 2018

1.2.16 Subsequent to completion of the pilot implementation, ISRO would transfer the technology to selected indigenous industry partners for production, sale and after sales support. Respective State Fisheries Departments are expected to take necessary measures to equip the fishing boats registered in their states.

1.2.17 As part of the pilot implementation, Ahmedabad Earth Station hub is supporting POC terminals (Capable of handling up to 4000 terminals). Subsequently, the operations will be migrated to Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC), Gurgaon with one to one redundancy with

Delhi Earth Station (DES). These terminals will also have provisions to act as Distress Alert Terminals.

Further Recommendation

1.2.18 The Committee notes the Reply.

1.3 Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

Recommendation

1.3.1 The committee takes note of the relief measures undertaken by the Government of Kerala and feels that these measures, if implemented sincerely, can make a positive impact on the families of the affected persons. The Committee desires to be apprised of the action taken in this regard within three months.

(Para 3.1.10 ibid)

Action Taken

1.3.2 Families of the bereaved fishermen (51 individuals) was provided Rs 20 lakh by State Government. They were also provided Rs 2 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). The final number of missing fishermen in cyclone Ockhi is 91. Dependents of all of them were provided Rs 20 lakh as ex-gratia as in the case of deceased. Rs 33.95 crore were disbursed to provide Rs 2000/head to all active fishermen as relief in the immediate days following cyclone Ockhi. Ration worth Rs 8.31 crore was provided to the registered active fishermen families in Kerala coast. Relief food kit worth Rs 4.61 lakh was distributed to immediately affected families in Thiruvananthapuram. Rs 12.14 lakh was paid to other states for facilitating, safe docking and relief to fishermen who sailed and docked in those states. An amount of Rs 58.86 lakh was disbursed as crop loss assistance to farmers in Thiruvanthapuram district. An amount of Rs 5.82 crore was disbursed for house damage repair in Thiruvanthapuram District. Fisheries department is in the process of verifying seriously injured claims to provide Rs 5 Lakh/person who will not be able to continue his traditional livelihood of fishing. Fisheries department is in the process of finalizing free education for the children of the deceased. In addition, Government of Kerala has declared that there will be more recruitment to coastal police in which 200 will be recruited from fishermen folk.

Further Recommendation

1.3.3 The Committee notes the reply.

1.4 Financial Assistance to the States

Recommendation

1.4.1 The Committee is surprised to observe a huge difference, ranging from a high of 97 per cent to 27 per cent, between the assistance sought by the States and the amounts approval by the High-Level Committee of Central Government in the aftermath of the disasters. The Committee is intrigued by the fact that in most of the disasters, the shortfall between the funds sought and those approved was more than 70 per cent and in some cases, the shortfall was more than 95 per cent. The Committee wonders as to how the State Governments, especially those with limited sources of revenue such as the State Governments of the North- Eastern States, are able to manage in light of such a huge shortfall. The

Committee therefore recommends that the Central Governments should sensitise the State Governments about the approved norms for assistance that exaggerated demands are not made. At the same time, the Central Government should re-examine the norms and bring about necessary changes in the policy of funding the damage caused by various disasters to ensure adequate relief to the affected populace.

(Para 3.2.17 ibid)

Action Taken

1.4.2 It is stated that the State Governments generally project their requirement over and above or on other than approved items/ norms, which are outside the purview of norms. These factors attribute the huge difference in projected demand of the state and actual approval from the GOI.

1.4.3 The State Governments are required to incur expenditure from SDRF/NDRF as per the items and norms approved by Government of India. These norms are applied uniformly and followed in respect of all the States without any discrimination. Additional expenditure, if any, incurred over and above the norms, is required to be met by the States from their own resources not from SDRF/NDRF.

1.4.4 State Governments have been sensitized from time to time to prepare their memorandum strictly as per norms. As advised by the committee, they are being sensitized again by a circular.

1.4.5 It has generally been a practice to review and revise the items and norms of assistance after the Award of the Finance Commission is accepted/ adopted by the Government. The revision of norms is a continuous process. Subsequently, taking into account various factors including the price rise, the Government of India has revised norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) was circulated on 8th April 2015. These norms are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website: www.ndmindia.nic.in.

Further Recommendation

1.4.6 The Committee notes the reply.

1.5 Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Recommendation

1.5.1 The Committee is apprehensive as to how the families of the deceased, missing and disabled fishermen would survive in the absence of a regular income. The Committee recommends that the Government while implementing the reconstruction programs must focus on the concerns of the fishermen including a comprehensive package to provide them with sufficient funds and enable them to restart their livelihood activities. The Committee also recommends that the State Governments should undertake several positive measures for them such as a regular monthly livelihood assistance for at least a year, debt relief, interest free loans, subsidy for purchasing new boats, free education to their wards and training in alternate means of livelihood for at least one member of their families. The Committee further recommends that the Central Government should provide all necessary support and assistance to the State Governments concerned. The Committee desires to be apprised about the progress in this regard within three months.

(Para 3.3.8 ibid)

Action Taken

1.5.2 The Government of Tamil Nadu have provided special livelihood assistance to the fishermen families of Kanniyakumari district affected by “Ockhi” cyclone. The details have already been mentioned in reply to Para 3.1.14.

1.5.3 The Government of Tamil Nadu is conducting various need based training programmes for fisher folk through Government agency Tamil Nadu State Apex Fisheries Cooperative Federation (TAFCOFED) with the funding support of National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) and Government of India for effective transfer of technology and propagation of welfare schemes of the Government.

1.5.4 As a measure of offering alternative livelihood to marine fisherwomen, TAFCOFED had conducted training programme on ‘Solar Lantern fabrication and servicing’ to fisherwomen belong to 13 maritime districts of Tamil Nadu, with NFDB financial assistance. This will help the fisher women to become a self-entrepreneur in production and serving of Solar Lanterns.

1.5.5 TAFCOFED is also conducting Training programme on “Basics of Seamanship and Navigation, Electronic equipments and Maintenance of Marine Engine” to deep sea going fishermen of Tamil Nadu with technical assistance from Central Fisheries Nautical Engineering Technology (CIFNET) and with financial assistance from NFDB. 1,000 fishermen in 40 batches will be trained under this programme.

1.5.6 TAFCOFED is also conducting training programme on “Value added fish products” for members of fisherwomen co-operative societies in coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. In the first phase 2,500 fisherwomen will be trained in 125 batches at a cost of Rs. 31.87 lakh under NFDB assistance.

1.5.7 In order to safeguard the coastal fishery resources for sustainable fisheries and to support the fishers to harvest the unexploited/ underexploited oceanic fishery resources like tuna and tuna like fishes, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu announced a pioneering scheme of ‘Providing 50 per cent subsidy for fishermen to procure New Tuna Longliner cum Gill Netter’ boats for the first time in the Country. Under this scheme 50 per cent of the estimated unit cost of Rs. 60 lakh or upto a maximum of Rs.30 lakh/unit is provided as subsidy for construction of new Tuna Longliner cum-gill Netter boat.

1.5.8 In this regard, the steps taken by the State Government of Kerala have already been mentioned in reply to para 3.1.10 above.

1.5.9 The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has already released central financial assistance of Rs 194.40 lakh including 3 per cent administrative expenses to the Government of Kerala for providing assistance to Ockhi cyclone affected traditional fishermen in the state under the Sponsored Scheme on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries during the financial year 2017-2018.

Further Recommendation

1.5.10 The Committee notes the reply.

Chapter - II

Recommendations/Observations on which the Committee does not desire to pursue the matter in view of the Government's reply

2.1 Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

Recommendation

2.1.1 The Committee takes note of the efforts taken by the UT Administration of Lakshadweep to rescue its fishermen as well as those from the mainland and to provide relief materials to them. The Committee, however, feels that a sum of Rs. Five thousand provided, as an interim emergency relief, for the damaged houses and boats, is paltry and may not be sufficient for even temporary restoration. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should undertake immediate measures to provide enhanced and sufficient assistance, to the owners of damaged houses and boats, without any delay.

(Para 3.1.18 ibid)

Action Taken

2.1.2 Regarding extending the financial assistance to Lakshadweep, it is stated that in order to support the affected people of the UT of Lakshadweep, the Government of India has approved an amount of Rs 15.00 crore, to Lakshadweep from UT budget on 8th January, 2018, for providing relief to the affected people and damages to the infrastructure due to cyclone 'Ockhi' in the Lakshadweep. In the case of damage of houses and boats, the extant norms provide assistance for repair of damaged houses @ Rs. 95,100/- & Rs 101900/- per house for fully damaged and severely damaged (both kutchha & pucca) houses, @ Rs 5,200/- per partially damaged pucca house, @ Rs 3,200/- per partially damaged kutchha house and Rs 4,100/- per hut. Similarly, for fully damaged boats assistance is provided @Rs 9600/- per unit and for partially damaged boats @ Rs 4100/- per unit. These norms are applied uniformly to all the States/UTs without any discrimination.

Further Recommendation

2.1.3 The Committee is convinced with the explanation furnished by the Ministry and therefore, does not want to pursue the recommendation further.

2.2 Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Recommendation

2.2.1 The Committee feels that neither the State Governments revenues nor the budgetary and other forms of assistance from the Central Government are sufficient to provide adequate funds for the purpose of restoration. The plans of the State Governments for the provision of safe housing to the homeless fishermen, revitalisation of the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, the establishment of the Marine Skill Development Institutes, relief of debt of the fishermen, and revamping the coastal police may require a significant amount of funds. The State Governments will, therefore, need to mobilize resources from sources other than the budgetary allocation to implement such measures. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Central Government should consider measures to seek

more funds from sources such as the corporate sector by categorizing their contributions to NDRF/SDRF under Corporate Social Responsibility funds and motivate them to contribute generously to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and NDRF/SDRF.

(Para 3.3.9 ibid)

Action Taken

2.2.2 After the visit of Prime Minister to the 'Ockhi' cyclone affected areas on 19th December, 2017, the prime minister had announced Rs. 21 crore for providing assistance for repair of fully damaged houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

2.2.3 The State Government of Tamil Nadu has intimated that other than the budgetary allocations, the mitigation measures are being carried out by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Funds in the state of Tamil Nadu.

2.2.4 The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has intimated that they have issued a series of clarifications through General Circular dated 18th June, 2014 which inter-alia includes wide range of disaster related activities.

2.2.5 On similar grounds, activities taken up by companies for cyclone affected areas and rehabilitation of the local population can be covered under various items listed in Schedule VII of the Companies Act. Board of the company is fully empowered under the Act to take decisions on allocation of CSR funds to different project of programs undertaken by them under its CSR policy. The CSR provision is aimed at involving the corporates, to mitigate social issues, through socially responsible programmes and projects which are innovative and efficient. This would include that CSR should not be interpreted as a source to fund the resource gaps in any of the Government schemes. Prime Minister's Relief Fund is included as eligible funds for CSR contribution under Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013.

Further Recommendation

2.2.6 In view of the reply furnished above the Committee does not desire to pursue its recommendation further.

Chapter - III

Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee

3.1 Missing Fishermen

Recommendation

3.1.1 *The Committee also takes note of the efforts of ISRO in developing the Fisherman App that can work even on basic smart phones along with a compact Bluetooth enabled NavIC device. The Committee recommends that all the State Governments of cyclone affected areas may be advised to collect the mobile numbers of active fishermen, as is being done by the State Government of Kerala. The Committee also recommends that the State Government of Kerala may be requested to complete the collection of mobile numbers of active fishermen and start the operation of the State level control room at the earliest to strengthen the monitoring system. The Committee further recommends that the mobile phones fitted with NavIC devices may be made available to all the fishermen within the next six months.*

(Para 2.2.12 ibid)

Action Taken

3.1.2 ISRO has developed the Fisherman App that can work even on basic smartphones along with a compact Bluetooth enabled NavIC device. This makes use of messaging service along with the position information available through NavIC system to provide alerts on cyclone, high waves, tsunami and information on potential fishing zones. These messages are issued by INCOIS. Fishermen are also alerted on inadvertent crossing of international water boundaries through geo-fencing mechanism.

3.1.3 Demonstration and field trials are conducted in Kerala involving State Government officials and fishermen. The trial in Tamil Nadu is in progress. Industries are involved to fabricate the NavIC receivers which can address the requirements of States. Communications with respect to availability of such a solution is sent to the Chief Secretaries of the Coastal States.

Further Recommendation

3.1.4 The Ministry has not replied whether the State Government of Kerala completed the collection of mobile numbers of active fishermen and start the operation of the State level Control Room to strengthen the monitoring system. Further, the Ministry has not replied to the recommendation regarding mobile phones fitted with NavIC devices that might be made available to all the fishermen within the next six months. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its recommendation for implementation at the earliest.

3.2 Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

Recommendation

3.2.1 *The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the Central Government and observes that the ex-gratia assistance of Rs 2 lakh, to the families of the deceased, and Rs 50000, to the persons*

seriously injured, are quite low. The Committee recommends that the assistance in case of death and injury may be enhanced to at least Rs.5 lakh and Rs 1 lakh, respectively. The Committee also recommends that the Government must announce a special assistance for the families of the missing fishermen and urge the States to provide them alternate means of livelihood.

(Para 3.1.6 ibid)

Action Taken

3.2.2 The State Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala had already provided ex-gratia relief assistance of Rs. 20 lakh to dependent of each bereaved fishermen as well as missing fishermen. The Families of the bereaved fishermen were also provided Rs 2 lakh from Prime Minister National Relief Fund (PMNRF). In addition the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have taken various steps for rehabilitation of the families of missing fishermen.

3.2.3 With regard to enhanced assistance under PMNRF, it is stated that any information pertaining to PMNRF are not admissible under rule and procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha, since corpus of the fund is constituted entirely with voluntary public contribution and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India. PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament. Disbursement is made with the approval of the Prime Minister, keeping in view availability of the funds of the PMNRF. As such, the issue of enhancing the quantum of assistance under PMNRF also comes at the sole discretion of the Prime Minister.

3.2.4 However under the norms of assistance of State Disaster Relief Fund/National Disaster Relief Fund, there is a provision of ex-gratia assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the families of deceased and Rs 2 lakh per person, when the disability is over 60 per cent.

Further Recommendation

3.2.5 In connection with the reply of the Ministry of Home Affairs at para 3.2.3, it may be clarified that the recommendation of the Committee was not about ex-gratia from PMNRF. Rather the recommendation was for the Central Government (the MHA) to enhance the assistance from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh in case of death and from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh in case of injury. The contention of the Ministry of Home Affairs that information pertaining to PMNRF is not admissible under Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Houses of Parliament and corpus of the Fund is from voluntarily public contributions and not from the Consolidated Fund of India and enhancing the quantum of assistance is at the sole discretion of PM has not been disputed by the Committee in its recommendation. What the Committee has recommended is that amount of Rs. 2 lakhs is quite low and therefore, should be enhanced to Rs. 5 lakhs and for serious injury from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 1 lakh. The Committee thus reiterates its recommendation given in para 3.1.6 of 211th Report.

3.3 Financial Assistance to the States

Recommendation

3.3.1 The Committee observes that Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visits the disaster-affected States only after submission of the memoranda by the States. The Committee understands that in the aftermath of the disaster, the priority of the State Government is to provide relief to the people and the preparation of the memorandum may take some time. However, by the time the IMCT visits the disaster affected states, to make an assessment of the damage caused by the disaster, the signs of the

disaster are on the verge of diminishing. This may lead to variance in the damage assessments of the State Government and the IMCT, as has been observed in most cases. The Committee feels that this anomaly can be rectified if the assessment is done by a joint team of the Central and the State Government. The Committee, therefore, recommends that for every disaster an inter-ministerial Central Government team should make a preliminary visit to the disaster-affected areas, within one week of the disaster, and a joint preliminary damage assessment should be done in conjunction with the State Governments concerned. The Committee feels that will not only eliminate the variance in the amounts assessed by the State Government and the IMCT but will also expedite the process of approval and sanctioning of the funds.

(Para 3.2.12 ibid)

Action Taken

3.3.2 To supplementing the efforts of the State Government, financial assistance is provided through under the existing scheme of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in accordance with the established procedure. The SDRF is a resource readily available to the States to meet the expenses of relief & rehabilitation works activities of immediate nature, for a range of specified disasters. Financial assistance under SDRF/ NDRF in the wake of natural disasters is by way of relief and not for compensation of loss as suffered/ claimed.

3.3.3 However, in the event of a disaster of a ‘severe nature’, in which the requirement of funds for relief operations is beyond the funds available in the SDRF account, resources & coping capacity of the State Government, additional Central assistance is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per established procedure. As per this procedure, the State Government is required to submit a formal memorandum on the damaged caused due to notified natural disaster indicating the sector-wise damage and with justification of requirement of funds. On receipt of memorandum from the State Government, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is constituted and deputed for an on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds for relief measures of immediate nature, as per the existing items and norms of SDRF/ NDRF. The report of the IMCT is considered by the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC), headed by the Home Secretary/ Agriculture Secretary. Thereafter, the High Level Committee, comprising of Home Minister (Chairman), Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister, and Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog considers the recommendations of the SC-NEC thereon, norms of assistance and balances available in the State’s SDRF and approves the quantum of additional assistance from NDRF.

3.3.4 With regard to the variance in demand and assessment, it is mentioned that due to various reasons, the State Governments generally project their demand/ requirement over and above or on other than approved items/ norms, which are outside the purview of norms. These factors attribute the huge variance in demand of the state and actual assessed by the IMCT as well as approval from the GOI.

Further Recommendation

3.3.5 The Committee notes the procedural aspect that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is constituted and deputed for an on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds for relief measures of immediate nature are met, as per the existing items and norms of SDRF/NDRF. But the Committee *vide* para 3.2.12 *ibid* had primarily recommended for evolving a new procedure by appointing a joint team of the Central and the State Governments instead of having two layers of assessment *viz.* firstly by the State Government and secondly by the IMCT so that the vital time taken in completing the procedural formalities of making damage

assessment will be minimum. Moreover, the Committee had also recommended that within one week after every disaster IMCT should make a preliminary visit to the disaster affected areas.

3.3.6 In view of this Committee reiterates its recommendation made at Para 3.2.12 *ibid* which is as follows:-

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that for every disaster an inter-ministerial Central Government team should make a preliminary visit to the disaster-affected areas, within one week of the disaster, and a joint preliminary damage assessment should be done in conjunction with the State Governments concerned. The Committee feels that will not only eliminate the variance in the amounts assessed by the State Government and the IMCT but will also expedite the process of approval and sanctioning of the funds."

Recommendation

3.3.7 The Committee is also aware that the State Governments have, time and again, raised the issue of the increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters and the spiralling costs of relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Central Government should devise urgent measures to diversify the sources of financing and expand the corpus of the National and State Disaster Relief Funds. The Committee may also be apprised about the current mechanism being followed for funding the NDRF under the GST regime.

(Para 3.2.18 ibid)

Action Taken

3.3.8 The NDRF is financed through the levy of a cess on certain items, chargeable to excise and customs duty, and approved annually through the Finance Bill. The Government of India raised the corpus of National Disaster Response Fund by a cess-backed mechanism through levying the 'National Calamity Contingency Duty' on selected items and additional budgetary provision is augmented. As such 100 per cent contributions is by the Central Government which inter-alia includes contribution of GST.

Further Recommendation

3.3.9 The Committee notes that the Ministry of Home Affairs has explained about the current mechanism being followed for funding the NDRF under the GST regime. But, the recommendation of the Committee to diversify the sources of financing and expand the corpus of the National and State Disaster Relief Funds has not been commented upon. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its recommendation made at para 3.2.18.

Chapter -IV

Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government have not been received

4.1 Search and Rescue Operation

Recommendation

4.1.1 *The Committee expresses concern over the fate of the missing fishermen and the reports that there was a delay in the launch of “Search and Rescue” operations. The Committee, however, takes note of the submission of the Ministry that the Government, despite the unpredictable circumstances, launched search and rescue operations in a timely manner. While the Central Government has made efforts to rescue the fishermen stranded at sea, the Committee observes that nearly 244 fishermen were still missing as on 4th January, 2018. With the search and rescue operation being called off by the Government, the Committee painfully notes that the chances of return of the remaining missing fishermen may now be very dim. The Committee desires that the Ministry of Home Affairs collect the final number of missing fishermen and submit a report to the Committee. The Committee recommends that the Government must make adequate arrangements for providing a viable means of livelihood to the families of missing fishermen and they should be provided livelihood assistance, as an interim measure, without any delay.*

(Para 2.3.5 of 211th Report)

Action Taken

4.1.2 The details of missing fishermen and financial assistance provided by UT of Lakshadweep, State Government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are as under:-

- (i) Lakshadweep – No fisherman of Lakshadweep is reported missing due to the consequence of cyclone Ockhi.
- (ii) Tamil Nadu - In Tamil Nadu 185 Fishermen were reported missing. The State Government has provided ex-gratia relief assistance of Rs.20 lakh to dependent of each missing fishermen. The State Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 42, 50,000/- to provide special livelihood assistance of Rs. 5,000/- per family to the families of the fishermen went missing due to Ockhi cyclone. State Government also announced to provide employment in the Government organization to any one of the legal heir of the families of the deceased/ missing fishermen based on their educational qualification as a support to the families who had lost their bread winner due to Ockhi cyclone”. State Government also started a special scheme of meeting the educational expenditure for pursuing / continuing higher studies (Professional, technical and academic) by the children of fishermen who went missing while fishing is being implemented by Fisheries Department. To provide training in an alternate livelihood to the families of the missing / deceased fishermen due to Ockhi cyclone is under consideration of the Government.
- (iii) Kerala - In Kerala 91 Fishermen were reported missing. The State Government provide ex-gratia relief assistance of Rs.20 lakh each to dependents of all missing fishermen. Fisheries department is in the process of finalizing free education for the children of the deceased. In addition, Government of Kerala has declared that there will be more

recruitment to coastal police in which 200 will be recruited from fishermen folk. Rs. 33.95 crore was disbursed to provide Rs 2000/head to all active fishermen as relief in the immediate days following cyclone Ockhi for livelihood.

Further Recommendation

4.1.3 The Committee notes that the proposal to provide training in an alternate livelihood is still under consideration of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The Committee hopes that it will be decided soon and the Committee will be apprised of the same.

4.2 Deployment of Forces

Recommendation

4.2.1 On perusal of the details of prepositioning of the NDRF teams, the Committee comes to a conclusion that there was timely prepositioning of the NDRF teams and the deployment was consistent with the requisitions submitted by the State Governments of the affected states. However, the Committee feels that the State Governments may not be able to make an optimal need based assessment of the requirements and sometimes the number of teams requested by them may be more than the requirement, while at other times the number of teams requisitioned may not be sufficient. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) should also make an independent assessment of the number of battalions that may be required for deployment as per the circumstances prevalent in the ground level. Such an arrangement is all the more necessary in case of the disasters affecting several States where each State will make competing demands for prepositioning of the Forces. In such a situation, a rational assessment of needs and optimal pre-positioning of the Forces may be essentially required from a national perspective keeping the larger public interest in view.

(Para 2.4.10 ibid)

Action Taken

4.2.2 The prepositioning/deployment of NDRF teams are made in accordance with the ground level requirement as well as the demand projected by the concerned state authority. Time is of essence during response in the face of disaster. There may not be sufficient time to carry out need-assessment after a disaster strikes. However, for disaster like cyclones where early warning is invariably available, standard criteria could be worked out to assess pre-positioning of NDRF, as proposed by the Parliamentary Committee. NDMA will attempt to bring out broad guidelines for such a need-assessment in consultation with NDRF.

Further Recommendation

4.2.3 The Committee notes the assurance that NDMA will bring out the broad guidelines for need assessment in consultation with NDRF and will apprise the Committee thereof.

4.3 Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

Recommendation

4.3.1 The committee notes the relief efforts undertaken by the Tamil Nadu Government and the monetary assistance that has been provided to the affected persons. However, the Committee feels the

monetary assistance, at best, could be a mere stop-gap arrangement and affected households, especially those of deceased and missing fishermen, may not be able to sustain for long on monetary assistance in the absence of a viable means of livelihood. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the State Government of Tamil Nadu should make arrangements to provide free education to the children of the deceased/ missing fishermen and training in an alternative livelihood to at least one member of all the affected families.

(Para 3.1.14 ibid)

Action Taken

4.3.2 The State Government provide ex-gratia relief assistance of Rs. 20 lakh to dependent of missing as well as bereaved fishermen. The State Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 42, 50,000/- to provide special livelihood assistance of Rs. 5,000/- per family to the families of the fishermen went missing due to Ockhi cyclone. State Government also announced to provide employment in the Government organization to any one of the legal heir of the families of the deceased/ missing fishermen based on their educational qualification as a support to the families who had lost their bread winner due to Ockhi cyclone”.

4.3.3 The State Government also started a special scheme for meeting the educational expenditure for pursuing/continuing higher studies (Professional, technical and academic) by the children of fishermen who went missing while fishing and the fishermen who died in shooting while fishing is being implemented by Fisheries Department.

4.3.4 To provide training in an alternate livelihood to the families of the missing/ deceased fishermen due to Ockhi cyclone is under consideration of the Government.

Further Recommendation

4.3.5 Since the proposal to provide training in an alternate livelihood to the families of the missing/deceased fishermen due to Ockhi cyclone is still under consideration of the Government, the Committee would like to impress upon the MHA to expedite the matter and furnish the final reply.

4.4 Financial Assistance to the States

Recommendation

4.4.1 The Committee takes note of the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission and is at loss as to why it has not been accepted and why the States still have to contribute 25 per cent of SDRF. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that the pattern of contributions to the SDRF may be revisited as per the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission.

(Para 3.2.5 ibid)

Action Taken

4.4.2 In this context, the Department of Expenditure has informed that the Government has accepted the recommendations with the modification that the percentage share of the States will continue to be as before, and that the flows will also be of the same order (linked to the extent of cess), as in the existing system; and that, once GST is in place, the recommendation of FFC on disaster relief would be fully implemented.

4.4.3 Subsequently, in the light of aforesaid decision and after the rollout of GST, the matter was considered by the Budget Division, Ministry of Finance and it was informed that ‘actual impact of GST on flow of Union Government would be known only in next financial year. It has, therefore been decided that the existing system of augmentation to SDRF of States by erstwhile General Category States contributing 25 per cent and erstwhile Special Category States (now NE & Himalayan States) contributing 10 per cent and the balance being contributed by the Union Government as grant-in-aid may continue till alternate source of financing of NDRF/ SDRF is explored’.

Further Recommendation

4.4.4 The Committee notes the statement of the Ministry that the actual impact of GST on the flow of Union Government would be known by next financial year, i.e. 2019-20. Therefore, the Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken in this regard after the financial year 2019-20.

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS – AT A GLANCE

Cyclone Warning and Forecasting

- The Committee notes the Reply.** (Para 1.1.4)
- The Committee notes the Reply.** (Para 1.1.7)
- The Committee notes the Reply.** (Para 1.1.14)

Missing Fishermen

- The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Ministry has accepted its recommendation having regard to its importance.** (Para 1.2.6)
- The Committee notes the reply.** (Para 1.2.12)
- The Committee notes the Reply.** (Para 1.2.18)

Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

- The Committee notes the reply.** (Para 1.3.3)

Financial Assistance to the States

- The Committee notes the reply.** (Para 1.4.6)

Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

- The Committee notes the reply.** (Para 1.5.10)

Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

- The Committee is convinced with the explanation furnished by the Ministry and therefore, does not want to pursue the recommendation further.** (Para 2.1.3)

Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

- In view of the reply furnished above the Committee does not desire to pursue its recommendation further.** (Para 2.2.6)

Missing Fishermen

The Ministry has not replied whether the State Government of Kerala completed the collection of mobile numbers of active fishermen and start the operation of the State level Control Room to strengthen the monitoring system. Further, the Ministry has not replied to the recommendation regarding mobile phones fitted with NavIC devices that might be made available to all the fishermen within the next six months. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its recommendation for implementation at the earliest.

(Para 3.1.4)

Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

In connection with the reply of the Ministry of Home Affairs at para 3.2.3, it may be clarified that the recommendation of the Committee was not about ex-gratia from PMNRF. Rather the recommendation was for the Central Government (the MHA) to enhance the assistance from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh in case of death and from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh in case of injury. The contention of the Ministry of Home Affairs that information pertaining to PMNRF is not admissible under Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Houses of Parliament and corpus of the Fund is from voluntarily public contributions and not from the Consolidated Fund of India and enhancing the quantum of assistance is at the sole discretion of PM has not been disputed by the Committee in its recommendation. What the Committee has recommended is that amount of Rs. 2 lakhs is quite low and therefore, should be enhanced to Rs. 5 lakhs and for serious injury from Rs. 50000 to Rs. 1 lakh. The Committee thus reiterates its recommendation given in para 3.1.6 of 211th Report.

(Para 3.2.5)

Financial Assistance to the States

The Committee notes the procedural aspect that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) is constituted and deputed for an on-the-spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds for relief measures of immediate nature are met, as per the existing items and norms of SDRF/NDRF. But the Committee *vide* para 3.2.12 *ibid* had primarily recommended for evolving a new procedure by appointing a joint team of the Central and the State Governments instead of having two layers of assessment *viz.* firstly by the State Government and secondly by the IMCT so that the vital time taken in completing the procedural formalities of making damage assessment will be minimum. Moreover, the Committee had also recommended that within one week after every disaster IMCT should make a preliminary visit to the disaster affected areas.

(Para 3.3.5)

In view of this Committee reiterates its recommendation made at Para 3.2.12 *ibid* which is as follows:-

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that for every disaster an inter-ministerial Central Government team should make a preliminary visit to the disaster-affected areas, within one week of the disaster, and a joint preliminary damage assessment should be done in conjunction with the State Governments concerned. The Committee feels that will not only eliminate the variance in the amounts assessed by the State Government

and the IMCT but will also expedite the process of approval and sanctioning of the funds."

(Para 3.3.6)

The Committee notes that the Ministry of Home Affairs has explained about the current mechanism being followed for funding the NDRF under the GST regime. But, the recommendation of the Committee to diversify the sources of financing and expand the corpus of the National and State Disaster Relief Funds has not been commented upon. Therefore, the Committee reiterates its recommendation made at para 3.2.18.

(Para 3.3.9)

Search and Rescue Operation

The Committee notes that the proposal to provide training in an alternate livelihood is still under consideration of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. The Committee hopes that it will be decided soon and the Committee will be apprised of the same.

(Para 4.1.3)

Deployment of Forces

The Committee notes the assurance that NDMA will bring out the broad guidelines for need assessment in consultation with NDRF and will apprise the Committee thereof.

(Para 4.2.3)

Immediate Relief and Restoration Measures

Since the proposal to provide training in an alternate livelihood to the families of the missing/deceased fishermen due to Ockhi cyclone is still under consideration of the Government, the Committee would like to impress upon the MHA to expedite the matter and furnish the final reply.

(Para 4.3.5)

Financial Assistance to the States

The Committee notes the statement of the Ministry that the actual impact of GST on the flow of Union Government would be known by next financial year, i.e. 2019-20. Therefore, the Committee would like to be apprised of further action taken in this regard after the financial year 2019-20.

(Para 4.4.4)
