

No.32-5/2004-NDM-I
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

Subject: Tsunami/Tidal waves on the East and South East Coasts of the Country-due to earthquake of magnitude 8.00 (MW) scale off West Coast of Sumatra(Indonesia)

According to the India Meteorological Department, there was an earthquake at 0629 hours on 26th December,2004 with magnitude of 8.0 (MW) scale off west coast of Sumatra Island Indonesia) and the impact has been felt in South India . There was an earthquake, as part of number of aftershocks, off coast of Great Nicobar Islands with magnitude > 6.5 (Mw) at 0952 hours IST, today, the 26th December,2004 . .

These earthquakes have been followed by a number of aftershocks, which are still continuing. The aftershock activities of these two events for some may continue for some time more. However, the magnitudes of these aftershocks will be less than that of the mainshock and with time the aftershock activity will also decrease.

As a consequence of occurrence of earthquake of high magnitude in the deep Sea, event of Tsunami (tidal wave) take place. This event has been experienced first time in the country, affecting the coastal areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry . As the aftershocks are expected, the situation is required to be monitored for the next 48 hrs.

A& N Islands

The P& T lines are badly affected in the South A& N Islands , which have been badly affected. This includes two major Islands viz. Car Nicobar and Great Nicobar. The Islands are inundated extensively. The communication link and power supply is disrupted in these areas. Two jetties of Coast Guard and one civil Jetty have been damaged and submerged. The Port Blair run away developed cracks and only 5000 ft is usable. About 2000 feet of Carnic Air Force runway submerged. No shelter available at Carnic and personnel and families are at Air Strip/roads.

There are reports of 32 human deaths. The casualties are likely to go up. 22 people including 8 policemen have been evacuated by the Coast Guard.

- Five ships have been deployed by Coast Guards for rescue and providing relief material..
- Air Force has also been alerted to assist the A& N Administration. Two AN 32 aircraft have taken off from Tambram (Chennai) for reece. More details about the situation are awaited.
- DG, Military Operation has established link with military base in A&N Islands
- The IDS HQs are coordinating MOD efforts.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is coordinating the relief efforts and is in constant touch with the UTs Administration and the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Health. The MHA have arranged 470 Qtls. rice, 5 Qtls Atta, 77 Qtls sugar, 1400 blankets and 237 tents (30 MT load), which will be airlifted in the morning of 27th December, 2004 from Tambaram Air Port, Chennai. In addition, three AN 32 Aircrafts with full load (4 MT) of relief material consisting blankets, clothes, drinking water and foods packets, will leave for Islands one each from Bhuj, Ahmedabad and Bhubneshwar. Two specialized Team in Medical First Responder(MFR) –one each from ITBP and CISF are being flown on 27th December, 2004 to Car Nicobar, for assisting the local Administration in rescue and relief operations. 8 Satellite phones are being airlifted to Islands on 27th December 2004 .

Ministry of Health is deputing a five member team consisting of physicians and public health experts, on 27th December, 2004 , to A& N Islands for emergency medical relief. The Team is taking emergency medical stores.

Andhra Pradesh:

The Relief Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh has reported mild tremors in the coastal areas. There have been reports of Tsunamis(tidal) waves in the coastal areas. About 922 boats and fishermen are reported to be missing. There are reports of 61 deaths (24- Krishna , 23 in Prakasam, 7 Nellore , 01 Guntur and 6 in West Godavari). The State Government has already initiated relief, rescue and evacuation measures. State Government has evacuated about 9,000 persons to the safer places. The Chief Minister has visited the coastal areas in the afternoon of 26th December, 2004 .

Two ships of Indian Coast Guard(ICG) have been deployed –one in Nellore and other at Visakahapatnam. State Government has sought assistance of Coast Guards/Navy for search and rescue of missing fishermen. No other assistance is required by the State Government, at this stage.

Kerala

There are reports of 105 deaths (84-Kollam and 21-Alleppy). State Government has informed about the situation, late in the evening, as they were earlier not expecting any tidal waves. State Government has reported that about 300 people may be stranded in a narrow strip of land between the coastal region of the backwater off Oachira in Alappuzha district. The Navy and Air Force have been requested to provide helicopter service support for rescuing the stranded people. The Navy has sent their diving team by road today and will start rescue operations early morning tomorrow.

There is no other request from the State Government, at this stage.

Tamil Nadu

State Government reported occurrence of slight tremors in Chennai. Tsunamis (tidal) waves, have also hit the coastal areas of the State. The water is reported have entered

Kalapakam Atomic Power Plan. 1560 deaths (788 - Nagapatnam, 290 - Cuddloor, 59 - Kancheepuram ,128 - Chennai, 261- Kanyakumai, 03- Triuneveli, 16- Villupuram,13- Thiruvarur and 02- Thoothukkudi have been reported. 20 people have been evacuated by the ICG helicopters. In Tamil Nadu also, all the District Magistrates of the Coastal districts have been advised immediately undertaking relief, rescue and evacuation operations

State Government has dropped 1000 foodpackets at Vivaknanad Memorial, Kanyakumari. About 400 persons have been rescued from the Memorial.

Ministry of Health has deputed 30 doctors in Chennai. A three member Team headed by Consultant in Medicine has left in the evening of 26th December,2004 to Chennai. Medical Teams from CGHS/RD office/APHO, Chennai, consisting of specialists have been formed, headed by the Regional Director for Health & FW, Chennai and emergency medical stores from CGHS/ Central Government. Medical relief is being provided medical relief to the affected victims.

The State Government has requested for disposal of dead bodies. Army is assisting the local authorities in this work. State Government has been advised to deploy Civil Defence Volunteers, who can now be involved in relief operations in the wake of natural and manmade disasters. State Government has constituted Teams to find out the missing people. State Government has been requested to indicate their additional medical requirements to the nodal officer of the Ministry of Health, based in Chennai. No other assistance is required by the State Government, at this stage.

Pondicherry

In Pondicherry also there has been damage to fishermen hamlets. A bridge connecting Karaikal with Tamil Nadu has been completely damaged. Further updates are awaited.

Police and fire services have been pressed into service. 280 deaths (211 - Karaikal and 69 – Pondicherry) have been reported.

A three member high level Central health Team headed by Deputy Director General (Medical) is leaving today evening (26th December,2004) to JIPMER Pondicherry. Teams from JIPMER, Pondicherry have been constituted by the Ministry of Health to visit affected areas and provide emergency medical relief.

Pondicherry Administration is now engaged in disposal of dead bodies. It has been to deploy Civil Defence Volunteers. There is no other request from Pondicherry Administration , at this stage.

Orissa

The Relief Commissioner informed that tremors were felt in Cuttack and Bhubneshwar. However, there are no report of any Tsunamis waves so far. There was

no report of loss of human live and damage to property. State Government is keeping close watch on the situation.

West Bengal

The Relief Commissioner informed that some tremors were felt in the coastal areas but there is no report of damage or Tsunamis waves. ICG has deployed a ship in Haldia, West Bengal for relief and rescue operations.

MHA- Coordination

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After receiving the information, Ministry of Home Affairs is coordinating the rescue and relief efforts and are in constant touch with the Islands and concerned States/UT.

The Ministry of Home Affairs have already advised the Coastal States to be on constant vigil and have been requested to take necessary assistance from Army, Navy and Coast Guards, if needed and instruct all the concerned District Collectors of the coastal areas to take rescue, relief and evacuation operations.

The neighboring States of Orissa, Kerala and Gujarat as also CPMFs have been requested for food and essential items and dispatch of these items are being organized by MHA on 26.12.04 for A & N Islands and Maldives .

Cabinet Secretary reviewed the situation and instructed to all concerned Ministries/Departments to provide necessary logistic support to the affected States and UT

Home Minister has left in the evening today, the 26th December,2004 to visit the affected areas in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Prime Minister has announced all necessary support to Sri Lanka and Maldives . Steps are being taken to provide assistance required by these countries to meet the situation.

Sri Lanka

The Government of Sri Lanka has also requested for Naval assistance to take their ships to Indian Coast . About 150 people were reported to have died as per preliminary reports. The Ministry of External Affairs has cleared the assistance. Two Naval ships with relief assistance have sailed for Trincomalli and Colombo .

Maldives .

One ICG Dornier aircraft was deployed on 26th December,2004 from Trivandrum for damage assessment in Maldives . Food packets for air dropping from 27th December,2004

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Human lives lost in the wake of Tsunami/ Tide Wave in the Bay of Bengal- 26th December 2004

Name of States/ UT/	Districts	Human lives lost	Remarks
A & N Islands			
	Car Nicobar		
	Great Nicobar		
	Total:-	32	
Andhra Pradesh			
	Krishna	25	
	Parkasham	20	
	West Godavari	3	
	Nellore	5	200 missing
	Total:-	53	
Kerala			
	Kollam	70	
	Alleppy	15	
	Total:-	85	
Tamil Nadu			
	Nagappattinam	612	
	Cuddalore	250	
	Kanchipuram	57	
	Chennai	128	
	Kanyakumari	217	
	Tirunelveli	3	
	Thoothukkudi	2	
	Villupuram	16	
	Thiruvarur	13	
	Total:-	1298	
Pondicherry			
	Karaikal	211	
	Pondicherry	69	
	Total:-	280	
Orissa		NR	
West Bengal		NR	
	Total:-	1748	

NR = No casualty reported.