

0800 Hrs 28.12.04

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

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

The Government of India in association with the States/UTs have mounted massive relief and rescue operations round the clock. . The priority is now focused on relief supplies and evacuation in Nicobar Islands and rehabilitation in the affected States/UTs The Cabinet reviewed the situation on 27.12.2004 and emphasized the need of providing all the required help to the people in the affected areas. The Cabinet Committee of Ministers has been set under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to review the relief and rehabilitation efforts on continued basis. An Ex-gratia of Rs.1.00 lakh has been announced to the next of the kin of the deceased from the PM National Relief Fund, in addition to the assistance available from the National Contingency Relief Fund. The National fund has been augmented by Rs. 500.00 crore. The Cabinet has also decided to donate one month salary to the PM National Relief Fund. The Prime Minister has appealed to the people donate generously to the PM National Relief Fund and also requested the Government employees to contribute at least a day's salary.

The UPA Chairperson, Home Minister, Defence Ministers and other Union Ministers are already visiting the affected areas and reviewing the measures and further assistance required.

The National Crises Management Committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary is reviewing the relief and rehabilitation measures with the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments and Chiefs of the Armed Forces. The other State Governments have also been requested to provide support in this hour of grief to the victims of the Tsunamis.

The relief supplies from the States of Kerala, Orissa and Gujarat have been lifted for Car Nicobar and Maldives on 27.12.2004. Further relief material is planned to be airlifted from Maharashtra , Karnataka, Orissa, Gujarat and NCT of Delhi for Car Nicobar on 28.12.04. The States of Punjab , Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh have also offered assistance and logistics are being worked out. The States of Karnataka(Rs. 5.00 crore) Maharashtra (Rs. 5.00 crore), Gujarat (Rs.7.00 crore) and NCT of Delhi(Rs.2.00) have announced the cash relief to the affected States/UTs.

The Armed Forces and Central Para Military Forces have being carrying out relief and rescue assistance, not only for the affected States but also for Sri Lanka and Maldives .

The Tsunami have caused devastation on the South East Coast of the country as also to other South Asian nations of Sri Lanka , Thailand , Indonesia and Maldives . The worst affected states were Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. The UTs affected were Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry . As per reports received so far the total death toll has reached the figure of 4000. The Tsunami phenomenon was experienced for the first time in the country. This was caused because of earthquake on 26.12.2004 at 0629 hrs. which was of high magnitude and intensity of 8.0 (MW) scale off West Coast of Sumatra Islands (Indonesia). Subsequently, there was an earthquake off coast of Great Nicobar Islands with magnitude of > 6.5 (MW) at 0952 hrs. IST on 26.12.2004. There has again been an earthquake of 5.6 (MW) intensity in the islands of Andaman region and aftershocks of intensity 5.00(Mw) and above are continuing The death toll has already crossed 4300 and is likely further go up once the bodies are retrieved from Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu in particular. About 4000 people including fishermen are reported to be missing. It is hoped that the fishermen who were in the high seas at the time Tsunami may be safe.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, the nodal Ministry for coordinating relief and response, is functioning round the clock and is in constant touch with all the affected States/UTs as well as the concerned Ministries/Departments and Armed Forces. The Control Room is providing assistance though it help line to the public in and outside the country about their relatives and friends round the clock. One senior officer (Joint Secretary) has been deputed on 28.12.2004 to Car Nicobar to coordinate the massive relief and rescue operations there .

A& N Islands

There has been extensive damage to Nicobar Island . The worst affected areas are Car Nicobar and Great Nicobar islands. Communication link, water supply were disrupted in these areas. Two jetties of Coast Guard and one civil Jetty was damaged and submerged. The Port Blair run away developed cracks and only 5000 ft is usable. However, Airforce and civil flights are through. The Airline and Jet Airways have operated special flights to Port Blair from Chennai and Kolkatta to evacuate the stranded people including tourist.

As per preliminary reports, 90 human lives been lost. The casualties are likely to go up. About 3000 persons are reported to be missing in the Nicobar Islands .

The MHA had earlier arranged 470 Qtls. rice, 5 Qtls Atta, 77 Qtls sugar, 1400 blankets and 237 tents (30 MT load), which has been airlifted in the morning of 27th December,2004 from Tambram Air Port. In addition, two AN 32 (8MT)Aircrafts and one IL 76 (20 MT) with full load of relief material consisting blankets, clothes, drinking water and foods packets, have left on 27th December, 2004 for Islands one each from Bhubneshwar, Bhuj, and Ahmedabad. Two specialized Team in Medical First Responder (MFR) –one CISF have been flown on 27th December 2004 to Car Nicobar and from ITBP is being flown on 28th December, 2004 for assisting the local Administration in rescue and relief operations. 8 Satellite phones also airlifted to Islands on 27th December 2004 . Three AN 32 load of relief material –one each from Karnataka, Orissa and Gujarat and one IL 76 load from Maharashtra is planned to airlifted on 28.12.2004 for Car Nicobar Islands.

Ministry of Health has deputed 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 also taking emergency medical stores

Three Naval ships are reaching Car Nicobar on 27th December,2004 . Two Coast Guard Ships with relief material and medical team left for Campbell Bay on 27th December, 2004 and will reach on 28th December, 2004 .

One naval ship and one Coast Guard Ship left for Hut Bay . Two Donier Aircraft dropped food and water at Hut Bay and Camp Bell Bay . Ship each from Kolkatta is planned for movement on 29th December, 2004 .

Andhra Pradesh:

Tremors were felt at Triupati, Nellore , Krishan, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam , Srikakulam and West and East Godavari districts. Significant tidal surge experienced in Krishna , Guntur , Prakasam and Nellore districts. The entire coast measuring 985 Km. was affected by the Tsunamis. The tidal waves penetrated between 500-2 Kms. into the main land and the height of the tidal waves was upto 5 meters. About 300 villages were seriously affected.

The death toll in the state has gone up to 85. About 800 persons are reported missing along with about 900 boats.

The State Government had taken relief, rescue and evacuation measures. State Government evacuated about 9,000 persons to the safer places and provided food packets. Medical Teams have been deputed to take sanitation measures in the affected villages.

Four Coast Guard Ships deployed off Kakinada , Nellore and Krishna Godavari basin for search and rescue operations. Four Indian Navy Ships operating off Tamil Nadu and Andhra Coast for search and rescue operations. 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

The Tsunamis also affected 2 districts of Kerala on the south-west coast. The coast length affected was 250 Kms. with penetration of tidal waves between 1-2 Kms. The height of the tidal waves was 3-5 meters which affected about 400 fisherman hamlets/villages.

149 persons have lost their lives. About 300 people were reported to be stranded in a narrow strip of land between the coastal region of the backwater off Oachira in Alappuzha district. The Navy had sent their diving team by road on 26.12.04 and started rescue operations today the 27th December, 2004 . There is no other request from the State Government, at this stage.

One Coast Guard ship is providing assistance and one ship has been put on stand by at Cochin . One coast guard ship is carrying out search and rescue at Quilon.

The State Government has shown concern about their citizens living in Male. Air despatch of 5.5 food packets organized on 27th December, 2004 to Maldives and 2.5 MT planned for 28th December, 2004 .

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is the worst affected state in the mainland. The Tsunami had caused sudden rise in the water resulting into inundation of many habitation along the coastal areas. Coastal area affected was about 1000 Kms. The penetration of the Tsunamis into the main land was between 200 Mtrs. to 1 Km. with a height of 7-10 meters. About 500 villages fisherman hamlets/villages were affected.

The State Government undertook relief and rescue operations and alerted the people to move to safer places. The death toll in the State has gone upto 3618 . State Government reported occurrence of tremors in Chennai. The water was reported to have entered Kalapakam Atomic Power Plan. 20 people were evacuated by the ICG helicopters.

State Government dropped 1000 food packets at Vivekanand Memorial, Kanyakumari. All the persons (1000) were evacuated from the Memorial.

A three member Team headed by Consultant in Medicine had reached Chennai and is coordinating with 15 member team constituted from CGHS Chennai for providing medical relief.

The State Government had requested for disposal of dead bodies. Army is assisting the local authorities in this work. State Government was advised to deploy Civil Defence Volunteers. 400 personnel from CRPF were also deployed for relief work. State Government had constituted Teams to find out the missing people. Coast Guard have deployed two Chetak helicopters at Chennai for search and rescue.

Message was received from PS to PM on behalf of the Union Minister for IT and Communication that 500 dead bodies at Velankunni were floating and boats were required for recovery. The bodies have since been retrieved. Relief Commissioner was also requested to make available assistance to Kolachala in Kanyakumari district, as they had not received the relief as conveyed by PS to the Finance Minister. 2000 packets of food had since been distributed there.

Pondicherry

As a result of rise of sea level upto several metres in waves, coastal areas in the Pondicherry and Karaikal region were inundated. 25 Kms. of coast length was affected by Tsunamis with penetration into the main land between 300 mtrs. to 3 Kms. The tidal waves with the height of 10 Mtrs affected 25 villages.

People living in low lying areas were evacuated to safer places and essential commodities including readymade meals provided. In Karaikal, a bridge along with Arasalar river was damaged and the communication on the southern part of Kariakal region is affected. The PWD has launched repair of the bridge.

Police and fire services were pressed into service 429 deaths have been reported.

A three member high level Central health Team headed by Deputy Director General (Medical) has reached JIPMER Pondicherry was deployed.

Pondicherry Administration is now engaged in disposal of dead bodies. It has been advised to utilize services of Civil Defence Volunteers. Government of Maharashtra has been requested to provide 20 MT relief material to Pondicherry as requested by UT admn. As requested by the Pondicherry Administration one IL 76 load (20Mts) of relief material is being airlifted from Mumbai on 28.12.2004, courtesy Government of Maharashtra.

Sri Lanka

Four Ships sailed to Colombo (two each Ex Cochin and Chennai) carrying medical stores and relief material. Six MI-17 moved to Colombo on 27th December, 2004 for search and rescue and relief mission.

Maldives .

Air despatch of 5.5 MT food packets was arranged on 27.12.04 and 2.5 MT will be on 28.12.2004.

One IL 76 load (20Mts) of relief material is being airlifted from Mumbai on 28.12.2004

2 AVROS landed at Male with food and water are retained there for further assistance to drop relief material collected locally. Three naval ships carrying medicines, medical teams, water , syntax tanks etc, have moved from Mumbai to Male with two helicopters and relief stores. One ship will reach on 28th December, 2004 followed by 29th and 30th December, 2004

(S.K. Swami)

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Human lives lost in the wake of Tsunami/ Tide Wave in the Bay of Bengal - 26th December 2004**0800 hrs. on 28.12.2004**

Name of States/ UT/	Districts	Human lives lost	Remarks
A & N Islands			
	Car Nicobar	73	Including 65 Defence personnel, about 4000 missing
	Great Nicobar	4	
	Total	90@	
Andhra Pradesh			
	Krishna	34	320 boats/ 300 fishermen missing
	Guntur	1	100 boats
	Nellore	10	100 boats/ 200 missing
	Parkasham	31	100 boats/60 missing
	West Godavari	8	300 boats/50 missing
	East Godavari	1	200 fishermen missing
	Visakhapatnam		2 boats
	Total	85	922 boats/ 810 missing
Kerala			
	Kollam	116	
	Alleppy	28	
	Ernakulam	4	
	Other districts	1	
	Total	149	
Tamil Nadu			
	Nagappattinam	2069	
	Cuddalore	353	
	Kancheepuram	96	

		Chennai	165	
		Kanyakumari	542	
		Tirunelveli	4	
		Thoothukkudi	2	
		Villupuram	34	
		Thiruvarur	29	
		Ramanathapuram	2	
		Thanjavur	1	
		Total	3618@	
	Pondicherry			
		Karaikal	355	
		Pondicherry	74	
		Total	429	
		Total:-	4371	

@ district wise details of revised figures are awaited.