

Action taken on preparedness for possible cyclone over Bay of Bengal

Date: 07.05.2022

IMD Forecast:

The Well Marked Low Pressure Area over Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea moved northwestwards, concentrated into a depression and lay centered at 1130 hours IST of today, the 07th May, over the same region near latitude 9.4°N and longitude 91.3°E, about 170 km west of Car Nicobar (Nicobar Islands), 300 km south-southwest of Port Blair (Andaman Islands), 1270 km southeast of Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and 1300 km south-southeast of Puri (Odisha).

It is very likely to move northwestwards and intensify into a Cyclonic Storm over eastcentral Bay of Bengal on 8th May. It is very likely to continue to move northwestwards till 10th May evening and reach Westcentral and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh & Odisha coasts. Thereafter, it is very likely to recurve north-northeastwards and move towards Northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast.

Preparatory Meeting by SRC & ACS

- Special Relief Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary has reviewed the preparedness measures taken by these districts through video conferencing on 5.5.22 with concerned Collectors and Municipal Commissioners of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack & Berhempur.
- The Special Relief Commissioner & Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Disaster Management hold two preparatory meetings on 5.5.22 with NDRF, ODRAF & Fire Services and secondly with Principal Secretaries of Energy, H &UD and PR &DW Department.
- SRC & ACS has taken a preparatory meeting on 6.5.22 with Secretary, IT, BSNL, Deptt. of Telecom & all Telecom Service Providers and discussed about advance planning to be taken by all TSPs.

Readiness of Response Forces:

- All 17 NDRF teams, Fire Service Units, all 20 ODRAF units (60 Teams) have been kept in readiness with emergency equipment.
- All local Fire Service Units have been kept in readiness and at least 175 Fire Service Units shall be deployed in case of eventuality.
- They shall be pre-positioned at critically vulnerable points in well advance.
- DG, NDRF, New Delhi has been requested for readiness of additional 10 NDRF Teams.

Instruction to 18 Collectors:

Detailed instructions have been issued to the Collectors of 18 districts Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Khordha, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada and Kandhamal to keep the administrative machinery fully prepared to meet the possible situation on account the possible cyclone over Bay of Bengal. These Collectors have been directed to take action on the following points:

- District Emergency Operation Centres and Control Rooms of Municipal Corporations must function round the Clock with Class-I officers and required support ministerial staff in each shift. Name, designation and contact telephone numbers of such Class-I officers manning the DEOC/Control Rooms shall be shared with SRC office/OSDMA by 6/5/22.
- Satellite phones provided to all Collectors are required to be checked and test calls are to be made. Apart from Satellite phone, Digital Mobile Radio communication systems established in six coastal districts shall be used to establish communication. Satellite Phones may be provided temporarily to Municipal Commissioners of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Berhampur.
- Adequate safe buildings both permanent and temporary shelters shall be identified. Good toilets both for male and female, drinking water facility, kitchen, sanitation and hygiene must be ensured properly. Two male officials and one female official like ASHA/ Anganwadi worker/ Lady Constable/ Lady Home guard/ Lady teacher or of similar rank must be attached to each shelter. The female official shall ensure protection of dignity of the women and children. All designated shelter buildings shall be geo-tagged. The name and mobile number of the team in charge of identified safe shelter buildings indicating latitude & longitude must be sent to SRC office/ OSDMA by 6/5/22.
- All cyclone and flood shelters shall be immediately checked by local BDOs and Tahsildars. They should check water supply, functional toilets, generator, inflatable tower light, mechanical cutters and other equipment available in shelters.
- Ensure pre-arrangements for engagement of a sweeper/ cleaner for the designated shelter for cleaning bath rooms/ toilets. NGO support may be utilised at the district level. Biscuit and Chhatua or any other supplementary food shall be made available in the shelters for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers as would be required in the event of evacuation.
- Local Fire Officer may be instructed to check the functional status of the equipment available in shelters. Fuel arrangements for the generators and other equipment may also be made available which can be reimbursed out of SDRF.

- The Deputy Collector, Emergency should take stock of inflatable tower lights, power saws, etc. given to the District and verify the functional condition and report to OSDMA within 24 hours.
- Advance plan shall be prepared for shifting of pregnant women having expected date of delivery (EDD) in next 15 days to shift to the nearest Government hospital having proper facilities for institutional delivery. Special focus shall be on vulnerable people like old, PwD, sick, child.
- CDMOs may be instructed to be ready to provide First Aid Kit to each designated shelter.
- Preparation of evacuation plan: (a) If there is a Cyclonic Storm along with Wind Action, people living in kutcha / asbestos houses must be evacuated; (b) if there is a storm surge, there shall be blanket evacuation of people living near sea coast; and (c) in case of flooding, the targeted evacuation shall be people in the submerged areas.
- The newly elected PRI members/ Corporators shall be briefed on the basic concepts of preparedness, roles and responsibilities in case a cyclone hits.
- Massive awareness among general public shall be made not to go out for collection of mango, coconut, jackfruit, etc during wind action. Also, biking and cycling during active wind action is prohibited which normally happens amongst youngsters to show heroism.
- Advance planning for removal of hoardings from road side/ roof tops / congregation places may be ensured.
- Tahasil- wise availability of stock of polythene may be assessed by the District Collectors.

Instruction to Deptts:

Energy Department: Energy Department has been requested to take action on the following points

- Pre- positioning of skilled personnel & materials and equipment like cranes, tree cutters in the likely cyclone affected areas.
- Prior arrangements for quick restoration of power supply, where damaged.
- Organise sufficient materials and manpower for restoration of electrical infrastructure.
- Alternative Power Supply:
 - All essential establishments to make power back up arrangements.
 - Lifeline institutions like hospitals, water supply systems must have alternative power arrangements to ensure uninterrupted services.

H& UD/PR &DW Deptt:

These departments have been instructed to take action on the following points.

- Drainage Clearance
- Debris Clearance
- Deployment of dewatering pumps
- Deployment of water tankers
- Power back up
- Generators to run Pumping Stations
- Sensitization of Elected Representatives / PRIs
- Keep the field level functionaries in strategic locations of flash flooding/ water loggings in alert & readiness to meet any eventuality
- Disinfection of water sources (Well, Tube Well, Ponds, etc.) after cyclone
- Supply of Halogen Tablets/ bleaching powder in affected areas
- Immediate repair of hand pump tube wells & restoration of water supply projects

Forest & Environ Department: The department has been instructed for readiness of at least 100 Cutters with manpower of Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) for immediate deployment in the likely cyclone affected areas for clearance of roads.

RD/ Works/WR Deptt.: These departments have been instructed to take action on the following points.

- To make all necessary arrangements for immediate restoration of roads for clearance of relief lines and restoration of govt. buildings in case there a cyclone/ flood.
- To keep in readiness of all the machineries/ emergency equipment available both with the Govt. Departments/ PSUs and private agencies so that it can be used as and when required.
- To be in readiness with men, material and machineries to immediately resolve dislocation of traffic during the cyclone in their respective divisions.

Health & FW Department:

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- To ensure Provision of emergency medicines (Antipyretic, antibiotics, Anti diarrhoeal, ORS, Halazone/chlorine tablets, Anti snake venom, IV fluids etc) in sufficient quantity in hospitals at different levels, Plan for deployment of mobile health teams and opening of medical relief centres.

- Alternative water & power supply to the hospitals, storage of adequate rations for in-patients in hospitals, storage of POL for generators etc. are to be ensured in all PHCs, CHCs, DHH and other hospitals.
- Alternate fuel supply with adequate fuel and DG sets etc. may be kept in readiness.

FS & CW Dept.

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- The department shall instruct District Managers/CSOs for ensuring stocking of food stuffs & PDS commodities in advance in remote/ inaccessible pockets likely to be affected by cyclone in consultation with Collectors as per requirement on realistic assessment. Arrangements shall also be made for keeping adequate stock of petrol/ diesel by petrol pumps.
- The department will finalize the list of suppliers in advance for procurement of chuda, gud, other ready-to-eat materials, candle, match box, etc. at the time of requirement.
- Field functionaries may be instructed to take steps for safe storage of paddy/ grains in mandies against rain.

W & CD Dept.

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- The Department will ensure the arrangement for care of children, women and other vulnerable section of the community. Special care will be taken for pregnant women / nursing mothers.
- The Department will take necessary steps to sensitize the AW Workers.
- The Department will ensure provision of ready –to-eat food (Chhatua) and baby foods for children at the shelters in consultation with Collectors as per requirement on realistic assessment.
- Instruction to Collectors for precautionary measures for pregnant women
 - ✓ List of all pregnant women having their Expected Date of Delivery (EDD) may be kept in readiness.
 - ✓ Advance planning may be prepared for shifting of those persons to the nearest District HQ hospital or sub-divisional hospitals having adequate institutional delivery facilities.
 - ✓ Shifting of these persons may be started much before actual threat of cyclone and separate instructions shall be issued accordingly.

Fisheries & ARD Dept.

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- The Department will make necessary arrangement for adequate stock of veterinary medicines in veterinary hospitals/ dispensaries at different levels.
- The department will finalize the list of suppliers in advance for procurement of cattle feed/ fodder at the time of requirement.

- The Department should ensure supply of cattle feed in consultation with Collectors as per requirement on realistic assessment and post cyclone vaccination of cattle in the event of cyclone/ consequent flooding.
- The department will ensure communication of warning/ alert messages to fishermen.
- The traditional fishermen were also advised to shift their fishing boats to safer places in view of high tidal amplitude.

Agriculture & FE Department

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- To instruct Collectors for dissemination of weather bulletin to farmers for taking preventive steps to protect the vegetable/ horticulture crops, standing paddy crops, harvested crops if any, and paddy in mandies.
- Agro based crop advisory on crop management during and before the cyclonic storm may be issued to the district level officers for wide circulation among the field functionaries and farmers.

SS & EPD Department

The department has been instructed to take action on the following points.

- List of old age, CCIs and physically/ mentally challenged persons may be prepared.
- Ensure the special arrangement for shifting of old age, CCIs and physically/ mentally challenged persons to safe shelters and provision of food/ drinking water if situation arises.

Indian Navy, Odisha & Coast Guard (Odisha), Paradeep

These organisations have been instructed to take action on the following points.

- To take Necessary steps for safe arrival of fishing boats, those have ventured into the sea for fishing by 8th May.
- To ensure Prohibition of Movement of ships, fishing boats etc. in the sea w.e.f 8th May.
- Men and machinery to be kept in readiness to meet eventuality in quick notice.

Measures for Telecom Sector:

BSNL, Deptt. of Telecom & all Telecom Service Providers have been instructed to make advance planning on the following points:

- As per present preliminary forecast of IMD, Southern Odisha is likely to be affected by the system i.e possible cyclone over Bay of Bengal. Focus may be ensured for Mobile Towers/ Telecommunication of coastal and southern parts of the State.

- To disseminate Cyclone related alert messages/ advisory to the people through SMS/ CAP/ Cell broadcast to BSNL subscribers/ subscribers of All the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) of the likely to be affected districts.
- To disseminate Group based alert messages based on threat status to a particular area.
- All the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/ BSNL to ensure appropriate power backup system functional in all Mobile towers and telecom exchanges to provide uninterrupted mobile service during the cyclone event.
- Availability of diesel with reserve for 24 hours and DG set in running condition are to be ensured.
- TSPs to identify movable mobile telecom towers (Cell on Wheel) and keep these CoWs ready for meeting the contingency of breakdown of towers during a cyclone event to maintain uninterrupted network coverage.

Close Monitoring of the System :

- The situation of the system over Bay of Bengal is being closely monitored and wathched at regular interval (on hourly basis) daily.
- IMD warnings/ Bulletins are being communicated to the Collectors at regular intervals through e-mail, whatsapp.
