

Office of the Special Relief Commissioner

Press Release

20.05.2020, 6.30 PM

As per hourly bulletin of India Meteorological Department released at 4.30 PM today on 20.05.2020, the Super Cyclonic Storm 'AMPHAN' centred at 3.30 PM of today, the 20th May 2020, as an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm over northwest Bay of Bengal near about 70 km east of Digha and 210 KM east –northeast of Paradip.

Super cyclone 'AMPHAN' is crossing West Bengal coast between Digha and Hatiya close to Sunderban. The forward sector of wall clouds has entered into the land. Eye is just close to the coast. Landfall process will continue and take 2-3 hours to complete.

Preparedness Measures:

1. Concerned Departments of the Government and Collectors of 12 coastal and adjoining districts (Gajapati, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Puri, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore and Mayurbhanj) were alerted and advised to undertake required preparedness measures to effectively handle the disaster.
2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister had reviewed the preparedness on 16.05.2020 at 5 PM with concerned Departments and Collectors of 12 vulnerable districts.
3. The Chief Secretary reviewed the preparedness on 19.05.2020 at 10 PM with concerned Departments and Collectors of Bhadrak, Balasore, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts.
4. The District Administration of vulnerable districts were directed to keep Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters in readiness and to identify other suitable RCC roofed public buildings for use as safe shelters in case of requirement.
 - 634 MCS/MFS, excluding the Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters currently being used as TMC for COVID-19, and 7092 other permanent buildings with cumulative capacity to accommodate more than 12 lakh people, maintaining social distancing norms, were kept ready in 12 districts.
 - It was also directed to arrange for Food, Drinking Water, Lighting, Sanitation and Health facility at each shelter and keep the Tower Light, and Chain Saw

and other emergency equipment available in MCS/ MFS in readiness to meet any eventuality.

- 486 no. of DG sets, 1513 no. of inflatable tower lights and 1497 no. of chain saws were kept in readiness at shelter level.
 - Arrangements are being made to divert the Inflatable tower lights available in Puri, Cuttack and Ganjam districts to Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts. 41 Inflatable tower lights have already been dispatched from Ganjam and received by Kendrapada district. Similarly 78 inflatable tower lights have been dispatched from Puri to Balasore district.
5. Collectors of vulnerable districts were instructed to take immediate steps to evacuate all people living in thatched, asbestos, tile or any other sloped roof houses, huts or in low lying areas in the possible affected areas to the nearest Multipurpose Cyclone/ Flood shelters or other identified safe buildings.
 6. Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur were requested to take immediate steps to remove all hoardings in ULB areas and roadside hoardings put in rural areas.
 7. 4 Senior IAS Officers have been deputed to Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts to provide guidance and support to the District Administrations in management of the Cyclone.
 8. Besides, 4 Senior IPS Officers have also been deputed to above mentioned 4 districts to provide guidance and support to the District Superintendent of Police for management of the cyclone.
 9. **Evacuation:** By 2.0PM PM today on 20.05.2020 about **1,62,991** people have been evacuated to the safe shelters.
 10. 1885 no. of pregnant women have been shifted to the hospitals/ Maa Gruhas.
 11. **Deployment of Disaster response forces**
 - 20 NDRF teams, 16 ODRAF teams and 231 Fire Service team have been deployed in 6 coastal and 6 nearby districts.
 - 100 teams of OFDC have also been deployed in 6 districts.
 - Fire Officers and Deputy Fire Officers are deputed to each of the vulnerable districts for coordination among Fire Service Teams.
 - Balance 4 ODRAF teams, 17 teams of Fire Service and 20 OFDC teams are kept in standby to be pressed into service.

12. Health preparedness:

- Mobile health teams have been organized for deployment to affected areas.
- Power back up arrangement has been made in all hospitals with sufficient quantity of fuel.
- Essential medicines, anti snake venom have been kept ready.
- Arrangements are made for screening all migrant workers in Temporary Medical Centres (TMC) located within 3 km of the coastline and to send the COVID negative cases to home quarantine and positive cases to COVID facilities immediately.
- Nodal Officers have been identified for districts and blocks for continuous monitoring of disaster response activities.
- Contingency plan have been made for opening of Medical Relief Centers and providing treatment to the trauma patients at health facilities.
- Plan for shifting of pregnant women from interior areas to delivery point/ Maa Gruha made.
- Contingency plan for sanitation is in place and stocking of bleaching power/ ORS/ Halogen tablets at PHC, CHC, DHHs and their availability up to ASHA level being ensured.

13. Electricity:

- Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) and Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) have taken advance action for mobilizing technical gangs and materials to take up the restoration immediately after the cyclone. Gangs with Gen Sets, gas cutters and vehicles are in readiness for immediate deployment.
- 340 no. of gangs each comprising 10 work men, 4305 no. of poles, 365 km of conductors, 116 KM of AB Cable, 115 no. of DTR, 3850 no. of insulators have been mobilized and prepositioned by CESU, NESCO and SOUTHCO.
- PGCIL and NTPC has been requested to depute 30 gangs each with necessary equipment for prepositioning at NESCO.
- 17 nos. of ERS Towers have been truck loaded for mobilization to the affected areas.
- As power supply is likely to be shut down before the cyclone, the life line institutions including Government offices have been asked to make power back up arrangement (Genset with sufficient fuel).
- 24X7 Control room set up in OPTCL/ GRIDCO for sharing of information.
- District wise nodal officers have been allotted.

14. Telecom: The 2nd round of meeting with Telecom Service Providers was held on 18.05.2020. All the telecom operators have agreed to make all the DG sets functional with fuel reserve of 24 hours. They have also agreed to keep movable DG sets ready at central locations for movement in case of need.

All the TSPs have agreed to keep **Cell-on- Wheels** in readiness for deployment in case there is damage to mobile towers in district due to impact of AMPHAN. All the telecom operators were advised to be ready with adequate numbers of technical manpower for restoration of any affected telecom towers and Optical Fiber Cables (OFC).

15. Drinking water:

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) Department:

- 276 DG sets kept ready for rural Pipe Water Supply (PWS) in 12 districts for uninterrupted water supply in absence of electricity.
- 805 vehicles loaded with PVC tanks and 75 water tankers are in readiness for use.
- 199 mobile repair units (each comprising two SEMs) and 106 local electricians are ready for taking up repair work on emergency basis.
- 2724 no. of overhead tanks are kept loaded with water.
- 1828 bags of bleaching powder are available for disinfection.

Housing & Urban Development Department:

- Adequate no. of DG sets and water tankers are prepositioned under the disposal of ULBs for ensuring uninterrupted water supply.
- 20 storage reservoirs are to be kept full by continuous pumping operation to ensure availability of adequate stock in 24 hours immediately after the cyclone.
- 113 DG sets, 95 tankers and 246 PVC tanks have been arranged for deployment in the ULB areas of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj districts.

16. Fishery and Animal Husbandry:

- All 4115 number of boats went to sea for fishing have returned.
- 22050 number of boats plying in Khurdha and 6 coastal districts berthed in safe places like fishing harbour and fish landing centres.
- As on 18.05.2020, all fishing vessels have been safely anchored in their respective marine bases.
- Awareness campaign on protection of animal resources from possible cyclone situation launched in electronic as well as print media.
- Supply of required medicines and vaccines to the CDVOs for distribution to vulnerable areas expedited.

- People have been advised to shelter the cattle and domestic animals at safe places. In case of necessity, they can evacuate them to the ground floors of the multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters and other suitable buildings.

17. Agriculture:

- Agro based crop advisory, prepared by OUAT and Directorate of Agriculture for protection of matured and harvested paddy as well as non-paddy crops along with other crop protection practices have been issued by the A&FE Department for wide circulation among the field functionaries and farmers.
- Crop advisory has been disseminated through All India Radio, Community Radio stations across the state and Door Darshan Kendras.
- Out of a crop coverage area of 2,65,800 hectares in north and south coastal districts 1,37,400 hectares have been harvested in a week time. Harvesting of the rest of the area is underway.
- Awareness camps and Mike Announcement will be done in different villages to take the harvested crops/ grains to a safer place and to cover the crops/grains in polythene sheets.

18. Water Resources: Following actions have been taken up by WR Department in view of the cyclonic event.

- 12 senior level Engineers are deputed to each of the identified 12 districts since 17.05.2020.
- All critically vulnerable and vulnerable locations of embankments are restored and sufficient flood fighting materials are in position.
- In view of anticipated rain fall, the major and medium reservoirs are depleted to 60 % capacity.
- The field Engineers are on high alert and in touch with District Administrations.
- Control rooms in each Division, Circle and CE Office are operational 24X7.

19. Rural Development: Executive Engineers of vulnerable districts have been instructed to take all precautionary measures with men, machine, roller etc. in vulnerable locations of different roads, so as to avoid any dislocation in road communication system.

20. Communication: The Collectors, State Disaster Response Forces and other officers having Satellite Phones have been directed to recharge and keep the phones ready for use. The Digital Mobile Radio installed in six coastal districts are also tested and kept ready for use for communication with Collectors, BDOs and others in case the telephone / cell phone networks are down due to cyclone. The

V-sat communications at State HQ and in 3 districts (Khordha, Jajpur and Cuttack) are also ready.

Response Activities in the aftermath of Cyclone AMPHAN:

- **Road Clearance:** Post disaster road clearance has already started in Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak and other areas by NDRF, ODRAF, Fire Service and OFDC Personnel. Teams are ready to commence road clearance immediately after subsiding of the wind in other areas.
- **Energy Infrastructure Affected:** As per the preliminary report received from the Department of Energy 65 nos. of 33 KV Feeders have been affected and 1938382 no. of consumers have been affected in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajapur, Mayurbhanj, Jagatsinghpur and Ganjam Districts.
- **Telecommunication:** From the preliminary assessment report it is observed that about 90 % of the telecom towers/ infrastructure are intact and only shifting of antenna is observed in the affected districts. Telecom Service Providers have started working in areas where cyclone has subsided for restoration of the damaged equipment.
