

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1604
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2007
CYCLONE WARNING SYSTEM
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether heavy floods and cyclone have been reported from Andhra Pradesh recently and other parts of the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith loss of property and lives;
- (c) whether the Government has forewarned the people about the impending cyclone and floods to move them to the safer places;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the efforts to put in place a Cyclone Warning System which would help to reduce damage caused by the natural calamities like floods and cyclone?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. Floods due to heavy rains in association with the cyclonic storm

(OGNI) were reported from parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh during the end of October, 2006.

(b) The cyclonic storm "OGNI" developed over west central Bay of Bengal off south Andhra Pradesh coast as a low pressure area in the evening of October 28, 2006. It intensified gradually into a cyclonic storm in the evening of 29 October, 2006 and was lying about 50 km east of Kavali. The cyclonic storm weakened into a deep depression and crossed the coast near Bapatla around noon of October 30, 2006 and became a depression in the afternoon of same day.

The system was continuously tracked using Doppler weather radars at Chennai, Sriharikota and Machilipatnam. In addition, hourly satellite imageries and surface observations from coastal stations were utilized for monitoring the system and issuing warning bulletins.

The details of loss of property and lives due to cyclone as received from Disaster management Division , Ministry of Home Affairs.

Human lives lost : 35
Cattle lives lost : 348087
Houses damaged : 67259
Cropped area damaged (in Ha) : 384550

(c & d) Cyclone Warning Centre at Vishakhapatnam and State Meteorological Centre at Hyderabad issued timely warnings for heavy rainfalls over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during cyclonic storm "OGNI" (29-10-2006 to 2-11-2006). The warnings were transmitted to Chief Secretary, Relief Commissioner, State Disaster Management of Andhra Pradesh, concerned Revenue Officials of the affected districts, All India Radio, Doordarshan and other electronic & print media. The Directors/ Duty Officers of the meteorological offices at Vishakhapatnam and Hyderabad gave personal briefing also to the state/district officials.

(e) To provide more efficient monitoring and warning system for cyclones India Meteorological Department has installed Cyclone Warning Dissemination Systems (CWDS) at selected cyclone prone areas all along the east coast. Cyclone alert, warning and dewarning messages were disseminated also through analogue and digital CWDS to these areas. Under the moderanization programme the analogue CWDS are proposed to be replaced by more sophisticated Digital CWDS units. The observational & forecasting systems are also proposed to be further strengthened over the country as a whole, including the east coast of India. Efforts are also being made to improve the prediction of the cyclone track upto 48 hrs. using advanced modelling capability.