Measures taken to prevent loss of fishermen lives

39.   SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has initiated pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives and to reduce impact from Cyclone 'Amphan' and 'Nisarga', if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the mechanism followed by the Ministry in co-operation with the State Government to speed up the disaster management; and

(c)   the further steps taken/being taken by the Ministry to introduce a better mechanism for permanent disaster management system with the co-ordination of all the concerned departments of Central/State-Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, Indian Coast Guard has initiated the following pre-emptive and proactive measures to prevent loss of fishermen lives and to reduce impact from Cyclone 'Amphan' and 'Nisarga'.

(i)   ICG formations were put on high alert and high state of preparedness. Fisheries authorities, State authorities and local administration were warned for precautionary measures.

(ii)   Constant liaison had been made with the State administration, various departments and Indian Meteorological Department to ensure wide spread precautionary measures in the affected areas.

(iii)   Indian Coast Guard Remote Operating Centres (ROC) and Remote Operating Stations (ROS) passed security/safety messages in local languages on VHF (very high frequency) to all fishing boats/merchant mariners at sea to return to harbour or take shelter in nearest port.

(iv)   NAVTEX warning (Navigational Text Message) and ISN (International Safety Net) were activated one week in advance by Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs) requesting transiting Merchant vessels to advise and warn fishermen to return to harbour/take shelter at nearest fishing harbour and render assistance, if required.

(v)   Indian Coast Guard ships and aircraft were pressed into action during cyclone. Post cyclones, ships and aircraft were again tasked for area scan to locate any stranded boats/vessels.

(vi)   During cyclone Amphan, Indian Coast Guard shepherded around 174 fishing boats to safety and 67 merchant vessels were relocated to safer areas.

(vii)   During cyclone Nisarga, Indian Coast Guard shepherded around 2354 fishing boats to safety and 03 merchant vessels were relocated to safer areas.

(b) and (c) (i) As per the Disaster Management Act, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) are mandated to deal with all types of disasters; natural or man-made.

(ii)   The Armed Forces are called upon to assist the civil administration when required. ICG form an important part of the Government's response capacity and are immediate responders in all serious Coastal disaster situations.

(iii)   ICG has prepared Standard Operating Procedures for Disaster Management and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been percolated to all formations and has initiated efforts for capacity building and training of ICG personnel.

(iv)   ICG units maintain close liaison and coordination with all State and District Authorities.

(v)   Special Community Interaction Programme (CIPs) and meetings were conducted with fishermen and coastal populace for undertaking safety measures and to advise them for not venturing to sea.

Status of HAL

40.   SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) proposes to set up logistics bases in Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka to provide several after sale services, if so the details thereof;

(b)   whether the HAL has signed Memorandum of Understanding with various organisations to strengthen the aerospace ecosystem in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether a number of officers of HAL who have left jobs in the recent past, if so the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the other steps taken by Government to strengthen the stiff strength in HAL and improve its profitability?