

CHAPTER - XI

TSUNAMI

The killer tidal waves of “Tsunami” triggered by series of earthquakes of unprecedented scale off the Indonesian Coast struck the coastal areas of the Union Territory of Pondicherry on the early hours on 26th December 2004. The Tsunami waves hit the coasts of south India with such ferocity and suddenness that turned out to be the deadliest natural disaster in the recent history, bringing huge devastation of catastrophic proportions. Coastal fishing community and some of the poorest people living in the coastal regions were the most affected, with huge loss of lives as well as fishing crafts and tackles and destruction of habitat and houses. Children and women were affected most adversely as they were the least able to resist and were dragged into watery graves. The estimated 30,000 people became homeless in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The current death toll is 599, that is, 492 in Karaikal and 107 in Pondicherry.

16 villages in Pondicherry and 17 villages in Karaikal have been affected. 17,432 people in Karaikal and 26,000 in Pondicherry are displaced. The Standing agricultural crops in 792 hectares of land were damaged. Owing to the tsunami 10,061 houses were damaged. Twenty-two relief camps were set up in Karaikal and twenty-six in Pondicherry, to take care of the relief operations of about 30,000 victims of Tsunami during its peak period of functioning.

The bridge connecting Karaikal town and villages located on the southern side of Nagapattinam over river Arasalar was substantially damaged. It has been temporarily restored by construction of Bailey bridge by Indian Army. Government Primary School at Kalikuppam in Karaikal was totally destroyed and many other schools suffered minor damages. There were extensive damages caused to the transformers, HT poles and LT lines which resulted in breakdown of power in the coastal area. Power supply was restored after attending to the urgent repair immediately.

The people evacuated in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions from coastal areas were accommodated in the nearby schools, marriage halls and Community buildings. School kitchens and modernised Midday Meals Central Kitchen were operated. More than 5.00 lakh food packets were distributed with the assistance of the Revenue, Local Administration and Education Departments. Headmasters and teachers of the schools provided assistance in the form of conducting census and other supervisory work and they functioned as link officials in tsunami affected villages.

A catastrophe of such magnitude and ferocity has never been experienced in the living memory. The devastation has stunned the people and left them under psychological and mental distress. Women and children are the most affected. Doctors, Nurses and para medical staff of Health Department counselled them and gave them psychological support. Orphaned children and widows were enumerated for special relief measures.

The fishermen community has borne the brunt of Tsunami. The losses incurred by them are heavy both in terms of lives lost and damage to the fishing crafts.

11.1 Immediate Relief Measures

- Government of Pondicherry announced the following urgent relief measures:
 - a. Ex-gratia payment to the family of each deceased @ Rs.1,00,000/-
 - b. Cremation expenses to the family of each deceased @ Rs. 5,000/-
 - c. Medical expenses to each injured person @ Rs. 5,000/-
 - d. Housing subsidy for each house irreparably damaged / destroyed @ Rs. 10,000/-
 - e. Grant of financial assistance per affected fishermen family to purchase utensils, Clothes etc., @ Rs. 2,000/-
- Supply of 70 kgs. of rice to affected families.
- Supply of two dhotis, two sarees, two towels and a bed-sheet to each affected family.
- Quantum of financial assistance for the loss/damages to fishing boats are as under :
 - a) Fully damaged mechanized Boats (Wooden Hull) Rs.4.50 Lakhs
 - b) Partly damaged mechanized boats (Wooden Hull) Rs.3.50 Lakhs
 - c) Fully damaged mechanized boats (FRP Hull) Rs.2.00 Lakhs

d) Partly damaged mechanized Boats (FRP Hull)	Rs.1.75 Lakhs
e) FRP catamarans with OBMs	Rs.1.00 Lakh
f) Catamarans with OBM	Rs.0.50 Lakh
g) Catamarans without OBM	Rs.0.20 Lakh

- Rs.3750/- per hectare for loss of standing crops as compensation for 792 hectares of tsunami affected land.
- Compensation to farmers who have suffered loss of cattle and poultry ranging from Rs.100 to Rs.10,000/- depending upon the nature of animal.

11.2 Long Term Rehabilitation Measures

It is proposed to implement Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project through PIA with the assistance of World Bank. The total cost of the project is Rs.182.91crore. The project has four components namely (i) Housing Reconstruction (ii) Restoration of Livelihoods (iii) Technical Assistance and Training and (iv) Implementation support. The details are given under Externally Aided Projects.

11.3 Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas

Government of India have announced Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas under which an amount of Rs.155.62 Crores was sanctioned towards loan and subsidy components. Government of India had so far granted Rs.72.99 Crores.

11.4 Financial Expenditure incurred under Tsunami held during 2004-05.

In connection with various rescue, relief and rehabilitation process to the tsunami affected areas Government had incurred the following expenditure:

➤ Central Assistance	Rs.7299.00 lakhs
➤ State Funds	Rs. 585.29 lakhs
➤ Chief Minister's Welfare Fund	Rs.1,014.00 lakhs

Total	Rs.8,898.29 lakhs

11.5 Annual Plan 2006-07

Planning Commission approved an amount of Rs.303 crore in the Annual Plan 2006-07 for the Development of Infrastructural facilities in the Tsunami affected areas, which includes Rs.220 crore under State Plan and Rs.83 crore under World Bank Assisted Programme to Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for implementation of Programme approved by the World Bank. However, in the Revised Annual Plan 2006-07 only an amount of Rs.170 crore has been allotted in the State Plan and no fund has been allotted under World Bank assisted programme.

The actual expenditure as per the reconciled figures of the Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries, Puducherry as on 31.03.2007 were Rs.16583.29 lakh incurred under State Plan. The Department-wise / Sector-wise details of allocation of funds and expenditure thereof are as follows:

Table 11.1

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay	Expenditure
1.	Revenue	Other Administrative Services	3110.00	3110.00
2.	Local Administration	Community Development	800.00	800.00
		Urban Development	885.68	885.68
		Roads and Bridges	1062.32	1062.32
		Sub total	2748.00	2748.00
3.	Public Works	Flood Control	2600.00	2498.04
		Roads and Bridges	3450.00	3404.40
		Water Supply and Sanitation	307.48	307.48
		Public Works	393.38	393.16
		Sub total	6750.86	6603.08
4.	Higher & Technical Education	Education	61.00	60.83
5.	School Education	Education	145.00	142.03

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay	Expenditure
6.	Health	Health	1534.14	1273.50
7.	Agriculture	Agriculture	50.00	50.00
		Minor Irrigation	32.00	32.00
		Sub total	82.00	82.00
8.	Animal Husbandry	Animal Husbandry	43.00	38.71
9.	Fisheries	Fisheries	1618.00	1618.00
10.	DRD	Community Development	135.00	134.14
11.	Electricity	Power	200.00	200.00
12.	Port	Port	50.00	50.00
13.	Tourism	Tourism	430.00	430.00
14.	Industries	Industries	26.00	26.00
15.	Hindu Religious Institutions	Other Administrative Services	67.00	67.00
Grand Total			17000.00	16583.29

11.10 Annual Plan 2007-08

Planning Commission approved an amount of Rs.240 crore in the Annual Plan 2007-08 for the Development of Infrastructural facilities in the Tsunami affected areas, which includes Rs.130 crore under State Plan and Rs.110 crore under World Bank Assisted Programme to Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for implementation of Programme approved by the World Bank.

The Department-wise / Sector-wise details of allocation of funds are as follows:

Table 11.1

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay
1.	Revenue	Other Administrative Services	5142.00
2.	School Education	Education	120.00
3.	Health	Health	3700.00

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay
3.	Public Works	Minor Irrigation	54.32
		Flood Control	1233.68
		Roads and Bridges	1346.00
		Water Supply and Sanitation	404.00
		Public Works	22.00
		Sub total	3060.00
5.	Animal Husbandry	Animal Husbandry	20.00
6.	Fisheries	Fisheries	400.00
7.	DRD	Community Development	100.00
8.	Electricity	Power	130.00
9.	Tourism	Tourism	100.00
10.	Women and Child Development	Women and Child Development	128.00
11.	Forestry	Forest & Wild Lfe	100.00
State Plan (Sl.No. 1 to 11)			13000.00
World Bank Loan Assistance			11000.00
Grand Total			24000.00

11.11 Annual Plan 2008-09

Under Tsunami Reconstruction Programme, a sum of Rs.190.14 crore has been proposed in the Annual Plan 2008-09.

Table 11.3

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay
1.	Animal Husbandry	Animal Husbandry	50.00
2.	Fisheries	Fisheries	400.00
3.	Forestry	Forest & Wild Life	100.00

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	Sector	Outlay
4.	Public Works	Flood Control	1300.00
		Roads & Bridges	5600.00
		Water Supply & Sanitation	2325.00
		Public Works	26.00
		Sub total	9251.00
5.	Electricity	Power	130.00
6.	School Education	Education	410.00
7.	Health	Medical & Public Health	4600.00
8.	Local Administration	Urban Development	30.00
9.	Revenue	Other Administrative Services	4043.00
State Plan			19014.00

TSUNAMI (Achievement / Work in progress)

Under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 663.73 crores for the Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme including the World Bank assistance of Rs. 185.10 crores and released Rs. 400.00 crores so far, out of which an amount of Rs. 355.49 crores has already been spent as on 31.12.2007.

Towards Reconstruction activities, 65.72 kms length of road connectivity and 35 kms length of internal streets/roads for the tsunami resettlement colonies have been established. 6 bridges and 14 bed dams have been constructed. Water supply was augmented for 28 villages and sewerage and drains were laid for a length of 23 kms. 845.18 ha of Agricultural lands which became saline due to tsunami were reclaimed. Bio-fencing completed for a coastal length of 22 kms covering 111.24 hectares.

Under MPLAD scheme, 10 cyclone shelter-cum-community halls and one Fisheries Training Institute are under construction.

A total of 15 agencies (NGOs, Rotary club, Govt. of Maharashtra and Project Implementation Agency etc.,) are involved in construction activities for construction of 7567 houses and related infrastructure. Construction of 2461 houses have been completed and works relating to 5106 houses are in various stages of progress.