



**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of Special Relief Commissioner**

No. 2771 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 17/05/20

From

Shri Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra  
OSD & Joint Commissioner, Relief

To

Secretary, Electronics & Information Technology Department  
Sr. DDG TERM, Dept of Telecommunications, Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
General Manager (CM), BSNL, Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
Chief Operating Officer, Airtel, Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
Vice President & CTO - ORISSA, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Bhubaneswar  
Circle Head, Vodafone Mobile Services Limited, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Sub: Minutes of the meeting on preparedness for the impending cyclone

Ref: This Department letter No.2672/R&DM(DM) dt.15.05.2020

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the minutes of meeting for review on preparedness of telecom sector for the impending cyclone in the Bay of Bengal held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary & Special Relief Commissioner on 15.05.2020 for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

  
17/5/2020  
OSD & Joint Commissioner, Relief

Memo No. 2772 /R&DM(DM)

Date: 17/05/20

Copy forwarded to the Executive Director (Technology & Communication), OSDMA for information.

  
17/5/2020  
OSD & Joint Commissioner, Relief

## Minutes of the Meeting for review on preparedness of telecom sector for the impending cyclone in the Bay of Bengal

**Venue:** Conference Hall of SEOC, Rev. & DM Dept. (DM)

**Date :** 15.05.2020 at 04.00PM

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The meeting was chaired by Shri Pradeep Jena, Special Relief Commissioner & Additional Secretary to Government (Disaster Management). The following Officers/ Representatives of Telecom Services Providers were present in the meeting.

1	Shri Rudra Narayan Palai	Executive Director (T&C), OSDMA
2	Shri Pravat Ranjan Mohapatra	OSD & Joint Relief Commissioner
3	Shri Santosh Kumar Sahoo	ADG, (Technology), DoT
4	Shri Shyamal Kumar Das	OSD, O/o SRC
5	Shri A. K. Pahi	GM (EB), BSNL
6	Shri I. G. Soren	GM (CM), BSNL
7	Sk Sarajuddin	Sr. Manager, Reliance Jio India Ltd.
8	Shri Lagnajit Dash	Sr. Manager, Reliance Jio India Ltd.
9	Shri Bimal Prasad Sahoo	Sr. Manager, Network, Vodafone Idea Ltd
10	Shri Sudhansu Dash	Nodal Officer, Airtel
11	Shri Pratap Chandra Pradhan	Ops. Head, Airtel

As per predictions of India Meteorological Department, a cyclonic system formed in Bay of Bengal is like to intensify into cyclonic storm over central parts of south Bay of Bengal. It is very likely to move northwestwards towards initially till 17<sup>th</sup> and then recurve northnortheastwards towards north Bay of Bengal during 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May. 12 coastal and adjoining districts such as Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Nayagarh, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore & Mayurbhanj are likely be severely affected by this cyclone. Other nearby districts may also be moderately affected. Keeping that in view, it is required to undertake necessary preparedness and precautionary measures in telecom sector to ensure uninterrupted service, also avoid damage to the telecom infrastructure and in case of damage, to restore the service at the earliest.

Representatives of TSPs brought to the notice that there were large scale damages to Telecom infrastructures due to severe cyclone "Fani" in 1<sup>st</sup> week in May last year rendering complete collapse of mobile, internet services in Puri district. Telecom service providers (TSP) had to move about 60 Cell on Wheel (CoW) to restore these services with intervention of State Government as temporary measure. These CoWs are still functional at present. They mentioned that the



decisions taken in the meeting taken by SRC on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Puri Circuit House, where it was decided that the District Administration would take steps to provide permission to TSPs/ IPs on getting their applications for setting up of Mobile Towers for phasing out CoWs in a gradual manner. But the said decisions have not been sincerely implemented by the Administration though they approached Collector office time and again for acquisition/permission for permanent site. The TSPs raised the concern about providing mobile/Internet services in Puri district during and post cyclone period as they have to lower the height of mast of CoW to protect the equipment and in that event, there will a possibility of outage of Telecom services for more than one day.

It was discussed that preparatory arrangements are to be taken by all Telecom Service Providers (TSP)/ Infrastructure Providers (IPs) to keep the Telecom services alive during the period of Cyclone to the extent possible and restore the services at the earliest in case there is outage. Therefore, all TSPs/ IPs are required to keep manpower in readiness at important Mobile Tower (BTS) locations and also keep adequate reserve of fuel(diesel) to run DG Sets for minimum period of 24 hrs to keep the Mobile towers functional in case of prolonged power supply failure.

After deliberations on the preparedness, the following decisions were taken:

- All the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/ Ips will 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 will have to be ensured.
- TSPs will also 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. The list of such inventory may be intimated to SRC office for information.
- Administration will give necessary support for smooth movement of personnel with vehicle and equipment of TSPs if required. TSPs/IPs may approach office of SRC for such support.
- TSPs will share vulnerable OFC routes in 4 Districts i.e. Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore to share the same with Response Forces and District Administration to see that no telecom cable is damaged during clearance of road/ debris.
- TSPs will take steps to disseminate Alert/ warning/ advisory messages through SMS in case important messages are to be sent to specific location either in blasting mode/ LBAS.

- Collector, Puri will be requested to arrange a coordination meeting with local Telecom Service Providers and make strategy to resume services in the event of the cyclone lays its impact on Puri. Collector may also take steps to clear all pending applications of TSPs/ IPs for setting up of Mobile Towers which are considered as vital infrastructures.
- All TSPs will share the preparedness/ management plan to Special Relief Commissioner

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and the participants.

  
Special Relief Commissioner &  
Additional Secretary to Government  
(Disaster Management)