

Drill at Kanniyakumari On Friday, the 12th September, 2008

1. Objectives:

- i. To test the effectiveness of Communication
- ii. To test the procedure of evacuation of tourists
- iii. To test the Medical Preparedness
- iv. To test the effectiveness of Rescue operation
- v. To test the Transportation of tourists to Shelter (I.e. Railway Station)

- 2. Scenario:** Early warning of Tsunami has been received from the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Nagercoil informing that there is an earthquake near Andaman Islands region and a Tsunami warning received from the State Govt. The tourists from the Vivekananda Rock Memorial are to be evacuated to the Shelter at the Kanniyakumari Railways Station

3. Description of the activities

Stage – 1

It is a normal day i.e. Friday, the 12th September 2008, the tourists would be visiting the Vivekananda Rock Memorial. The Poompuhar Shipping Corporation (PSC) operates the ferry services between the Jetty and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial from 8.30 am at regular intervals. At around 11 am the Village Panchayat Officer at Kanniyakumari receives a warning from the EOC and in turn he would inform Police, Fire & Rescue, Govt. Hospital and Manager of PSC.

Stage – 2

Immediately, the PSC Manager informs their ticket counter Supervisor to stop issuing the tickets of ferry services on all counters and also informs their employees on both ferries through walkie-talkie as well as to the Officer of Vivekanda Rock Memorial over telephone. He then also informs to the Police Station, Govt Hospital and State Transport Bus Service. The Supervisor immediately instructs the Security Personnel to stop the tourists. In advance, he also makes arrangements to put up a notice on a board outside the booking office as well as the entry point as well as announce on the Public Address System informing disaster drill in three languages i.e. Tamil, Hindi and English.

Stage – 3

Accordingly, the security personnel of PSC stop the tourists near the Gate and also at the Rock Memorial entry point. The information also is given on their public address system about the drill and instruct tourist to stand in a queue and bear inconvenience. Security personnel would be deployed near queue so that there is no rush or commotion. First batch of tourists will be taken to ferry and dropped at the Jetty. These tourists will be taken by from the jetty. In between the

State Transport Buses will arrive at Jetty and all tourists would be transferred to Railway Station. After receiving the information, the Police will come to the Jetty and also at the Memorial for maintaining law & order and help.

In an anxiety, few tourists' falls down while getting down from the ferry and gets them injured while another tourist gets giddiness. They would be taken by the ambulance to the Government Hospital for treatment

Stage – 4

AT 1144 a.m. a telephone call received from the Emergency Operation Centre informing that the Govt has withdrawn the Tsunami warning. The Manager, PSC announced at 1145 a.m. that the normal service would be resumed as the drill is over.

4. Observer Posts:

1. Manager Cabin, PSC
2. Ticket Counter of PSC
3. Jetty
4. Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Ferry Entrance Point and on the Rock
5. Railway Station
6. Govt. Hospital
7. All Women Police Station
8. Road between PSC Gate and Jetty
