Over 4,340 tonnes of humanitarian cargoes delivered to Ukraine —defense ministry

As many as 539 humanitarian operations have been conducted, Mikhail Mizintsev said

MOSCOW, March 22. /TASS/. More than 4,340 tonnes of humanitarian cargoes have already been delivered to Ukraine by the Russian side sincethe beginning of the special operation, Mikhail Mizintsev, chief of Russia’s National Defense Management Center, said on Tuesday.

"The Russian side delivers humanitarian aid to liberated areas every day. A total of 4,345 tonnes of humanitarian cargoes have already been delivered to Ukraine. As many as 539 humanitarian operations have been conducted, including 26 during the past day in the Kiev, Chernigov, Sumy, Kharkov, Zaporozhye, Kherson, and Nikolayev regions, and in the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics. As many as 180 tonnes of food products, clothes, medicines and articles of daily necessity were distributed among people," he said.

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation in response to a request for help by the heads of the Donbass republics. He stressed that Moscow had no plans of occupying Ukrainian territories, but aimed to demilitarize and denazify the country.

When clarifying the unfolding developments, the Russian Defense Ministry reassured that Russian troops are not targeting Ukrainian cities,but are limited to surgically striking and incapacitating Ukrainian military infrastructure. There are no threats whatsoever to the civilian population.

Over 560 people evacuated from Mariupol in past 24 hours — DPR authorities

According to Russian Defense Ministry, more than 68,000people had been evacuated from Mariupol as of March 22

DONETSK, March 23. /TASS/. Over 560 people, including 110 children, were able to leave the city of Mariupol in the past 24 hours, theTerritorial Defense Headquarters of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR)said in a statement on Telegram on Wednesday.

"As many as 562 people, including 110 children, were evacuated from Mariupol to the Bezymennoye settlement in the Novoazovsky district in the past 24 hours, between 8:00 am on March 22 and 8:00 am on March23. They are currently staying at a center providing assistance to

evacuees, which was set up by the DPR Emergencies Ministry," the statement reads.

According to the DPR Territorial Defense Headquarters, a total of 4,621people have been evacuated to the Bezymennoye assistance center since March 5. The Russian Defense Ministry, in turn, said that more than68,000 people had been evacuated from Mariupol as of March 22. The ministry stressed that the humanitarian situation in the city was "catastrophic."

Tensions escalated along the line of contact in Donbass on February 17.The Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics reported the heaviest shelling by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in months. On February 24,Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a special military operation based on a request from the heads of the Donbass republics. The Russian leader stressed that Moscow had no plans to occupy Ukrainian territories and the goal was to demilitarize and denazify the country.

Russian military destroys Ukrainian weapons storage site northwest of Rovno

"The strike destroyed the depot containing a large amount of weapons and military equipment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including those provided by Western countries, "Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Igor Konashenkov said

MOSCOW, March 23. /TASS/. Russia’s high-precision sea-based weapons destroyed a major weapons storage site northwest of the Ukrainian city of Rovno, Russian Defense Ministry Spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov told reporters on Wednesday.

"High-precision long-range sea-based weapons hit a weapons storage site in the Orzhev settlement located 14 kilometers northwest of the city of Rovno on the evening of March 22. The strike destroyed the depot

containing a large amount of weapons and military equipment of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, including those provided by Western countries," Konashenkov pointed out.

According to the Defense Ministry spokesman, 184 planes and helicopters of the Ukrainian Air Forces, 246 unmanned aerial vehicles, 189 air defense missile systems, 1,558 tanks and other combat armored vehicles,156 multiple rocket launchers, 624 field artillery pieces and mortars and1,354 military motor vehicles have been destroyed since the start of Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine.