

Damage Due To Floods in Kerala, Tamilnadu And Pondicherry

2167. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDA-ARM :

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

SHRI K.A. RAJAN :

SHRI K.T. KOSALRAM :

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent floods in Tamilnadu, Kerala and Pondicherry ;

(b) if so, the number of people died, State-wise ;

(c) loss to the property caused ; and

(d) financial assistance asked by the State Governments and extended by the Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) According to the information available with us, the following is the position about number of people perished due to floods State-wise ;

	No. of dead	No. of people reported missing
Tamil Nadu .	143	2
Kerala . . .	60	6
Pondicherry .	3	—

In addition, 14 human lives were reported to have been lost in the cyclonic storm in Tamil Nadu during the 24th to the 26th November.

(c) The estimated loss of property (houses, crops, roads, buildings, and fishermen) is indicated below state-wise :

Tamil Nadu . Rs. 2489.01 lakhs

Kerala . . . Rs. 7182.51 lakhs

Pondicherry . Rs. 80.33 lakhs

(d) A Central Team has already visited the flood affected areas of Kerala to make an on the spot assessment of the flood damage.

On the basis of its Report and the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, Rs. 11 crores have been allocated as Advance Plan assistance to Kerala. In addition, 12,500 MT of wheat and 12,500 MT of Rice are also being released for distribution by way of gratuitous relief among flood victims.

Another Central Team has also visited Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry from the 24th to the 27th November, to assess the requirement of financial assistance and the extent of flood damage. Its report is still awaited.

Financial Assistance To Poets And Artists

2168. SHRI P. RAJAGOPALNAIDU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial assistance is given to the poets and artists ; and

(b) if so, how much is being given ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER) : (a) and (b). There is a scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances. These whose monthly income does not exceed Rs. 400/- and whose age is above 58 years, are eligible for grant of a monthly allowance of up to Rs. 200/-.

Rural Housing Corporation

2169. SHRI P. RAJAGOPALNAIDU : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is giving any amount towards rural housing ; and

(b) if so, the amount given in 1978 to the various States ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT) : (a) and (b). Housing is a State subject. Central financial assistance to the State Governments for all their State Sector programmes, including 'Housing', is released in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants' without their being tied to any particular scheme, project or head of development. The State Governments are free to utilise the 'block assistance' on their Plan schemes including rural housing according to their needs and priorities.