

**Need to release funds to Punjab to meet relief and rehabilitation measures following devastation caused by floods in the state- Laid**

**DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL (HOSHIARPUR):** Punjab has battled unprecedented heavy rainfall and floods in August, 2025, regarded as worst in nearly four decades since 1988. Around 1650 villages have been affected and floods have submerged over 3.75 lakh acres of farmland, causing massive damage to 4658 kms roads, 68 bridges and extensive damage to paddy and other crops. Housing damage has been significant and health sector has faced unprecedented destruction. There have also been extensive damage to livestock. The education sector has been badly hit, with around 3,300 government and private schools damaged or inundated across the State. Concerted efforts and medium to long term planning is urgently required for rehabilitation and rebuilding Punjab's devastated infrastructure, economy and essential services. The Government of Punjab have submitted a memorandum to Central Government seeking flood damages, pegging total losses at Rs.13500 crore. Earlier, on September 10, Honble Prime Minister had announced relief of Rs.1600 crore during his visit to the State. However, Punjab has just received Rs.240 crore so far, only an advance instalment of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), due in October. The Government need to take immediate steps to release funds as demanded by the Government of Punjab towards enabling proper relief and rehabilitation measures for people of Punjab.