

Title : Statement regarding relief operations carried out by the Government after heavy rainfall and floods in various States.

(iii) Heavy rainfall and floods in various States and relief

operations undertaken by the Governments

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding heavy rainfall and floods in various States and relief operations undertaken by the Governments.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2868/2005.

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The Hon'ble Members are aware that our country is vulnerable to various natural disasters due to its geographical features. 60% of the land mass is prone to earthquakes, about 8% area i.e. over 40 million hectares is prone to floods and about 8000 Km of coast line is prone to cyclones and storm surges. The country was also hit by the Tsunami, which we had experienced for the first time in December 2004. Recently a severe earthquake of 7.4 magnitude on the Richter scale had been experienced in Jammu & Kashmir and in some other parts of Northern India, which caused extensive damage.

2. I have already made a Statement in the House during the last Session about the damage caused due to floods and heavy rains during the South West Monsoon 2005. 26 States/UTs had reported damage of varying degrees during the Monsoon Season. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were severely affected during that period.

3. Thereafter, during the current North East Monsoon 2005, the Southern States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have been affected in varying degrees by heavy rains and floods caused mainly due to depressions and cyclonic storms.

4. The concerned State Governments promptly responded to the situation and undertook rescue and relief operations on a large scale in the flood affected areas. These include evacuation and shifting of the people to safer places, setting up of relief camps, providing gratuitous relief, distribution of essential commodities, provision of safe drinking water, health and hygiene measures, etc.

5. The Government of India has closely monitored the situation in each of the these States and rendered necessary financial and logistic support to deal effectively with the flood situation. The National Crisis Management Committee under the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Ministry have been conducting regular reviews and follow up meetings with the representatives of the affected State Governments and the Emergency Support Ministries to provide required financial and logistic support.

6. The Central Government deployed Air Force helicopters, Army Boats, Army Columns and Central Para Military Forces to assist the State Governments in rescue and relief operations. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provided the requisite stocks of essential medicines and drugs, bleaching powder, Chlorine tablets, ORS packets to meet the requirements of the State Government and to prevent the outbreak of the water borne diseases and epidemics. Additional stocks of essential commodities and petroleum products were provided to flood affected States, wherever needed. The Ministries and other concerned Organisation i.e. Ministries of Road Transport & Highways, Telecommunication, Power, Drinking Water Supply, National High Authority of India, Border Road Organisation were directed to ensure immediate repair and restoration of damaged infrastructure on a priority basis.

7. Now I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members in some detail about the situation caused by heavy rains and floods during the current North East Monsoon in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Pondicherry.

8. In Andhra Pradesh, under the influence of the cyclonic storm, heavy to very heavy rains, accompanied by high velocity winds of 70-80 Kms., were experienced in September, 2005 in many places of Coastal Andhra i.e. Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Gishakhapatnam, East Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda districts. The State Government has reported the following losses due to cyclonic storm and consequent heavy rains and floods :

- a) No. of human lives lost: 56
- b) No. of people affected : 350 lakh
- c) No. of kuchha houses fully damaged: 34218
- d) No. of kuchha houses severely damaged 83252
- e) Cropped area damaged 333758 ha.
- f) Estimated loss to crops Rs. 939.54 crore

9. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a Memorandum, in which the total loss due to cyclonic storm, heavy rains and floods has been projected at Rs. 2746.77 crore. An inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 26.9.2005 to 28.9.2005 for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The report of the Central Team is being processed as per the laid down procedure for release of funds from NCCF.

10. Subsequently, the state of Andhra Pradesh again faced an unprecedented rainfall and floods due to deep depression in the South Bay of Bengal from 26-28th October, 2005, which inter alia impacted 59 Mandalas in the districts of Vellore, Prakasham, Chittoor, Kadapa and Nalgonda. In this spell of floods 31 persons are reported to have lost their lives and 2934 houses were damaged. The State Government evacuated 44,554 people and accommodated them in 107 relief camps.

11. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been allocated an amount of Rs.344.08 crore in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 2005-06 comprising Rs.258.06 crore as the Central contribution and Rs.86.02 crore as the State contribution. The first installment of Central share of CRF of Rs.129.03 crore for the current year was released to the State Government on 8.6.2005. While the second installment of the same amount has been released in advance on 8.11.2005, for the instant calamity. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has been requested to make an adhoc release of Rs.100 crore from National Calamity Contingency Fund. The Department of Food & Public Distribution has also been requested to make an adhoc release of 1.50 lakh MT of rice for distribution in flood affected areas of Andhra Pradesh.

12. The State of Karnataka has experienced heavy rains and floods in three spells. The 1st spell heavy rains and floods was in the month of July and August 2005. The flood situation was caused due to heavy rains and release of excess water from the reservoirs of Maharashtra, which resulted in severe damage to the life and property in the 61 Talukas of the State. The flood damage was maximum in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga and Raichur. The district of Shimoga, Chikmagalur, Udipi and Coorg also suffered considerable damage. The State Government has reported the following damage:

- a) No. of human lives lost : 130
- b) No. of people affected : 27.24 lakh
- c) No. of Animals lost : 11601
- d) No. of houses damaged : 84049
- e) Cropped area damaged : 1.94 lakh ha.
- a. Total estimated damage : Rs. 3640.07 crore

13. The State Government had submitted Memorandum to the Government of India. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was deputed to the State for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. The Central Team visited the State from 17.8.2005 to 20.8.2005 and submitted its report. The report of the Central Team was considered in the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) in its meeting held on 11.9.2005 and thereafter by the High Level Committee on 5.10.2005. The HLC has approved:

- a) Financial assistance of Rs. 255.05 crore from NCCF for floods in July and August. 2005
- b) 0.72 lakh MT foodgrains under special component of SGRY for relief employment.

14. The Second spell of floods in Karnataka was due to incessant rainfall in Northern Karnataka on 20th and 21st September, 2005 and due to excessive water releases from Dhanegaon Reservoir and Koyna Dam in Maharashtra State. The three districts which were severely impacted are Belgam, Bidar and Gadag. The State Government has reported the following damage due to flash floods in September, 2005.

- a) Number of Districts affected : 3
- b) No. of Talukas affected : 9
- c) No. of villages affected : 134
- d) Population affected : 13067
- e) No. of relief centres opened : 20
- f) No. of houses damaged : 950

g) Crops affected (in acres) : 56,584

h) Total estimated damages (Rs. in lakh) : 8974.71

15. The third spell of heavy rains and floods in Karnataka was reported during the last week of October 2005 mainly on account of depression in the Bay of Bengal. As a result of depression, some parts of the districts of Mysore, Bangalore rural, Mandya, Chamrajnagar, Davangere, Hassan, Kolar and Raichur received heavy rains. Bangalore city is also reported to have suffered extensive inundation, flooding of roads, disruption of road communication, collapse of houses and railway bridges, which resulted in the cancellation of a large number of trains. In this spell of rains, 30 persons lost their lives, 21,000 houses were damaged, 60,000 acres of agriculture land were affected while the damage caused to public utility works included inter alia damage to 500 tanks, 500 bridges/culverts, 4,000 electric polls.

16. A second inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted and deployed to the flood affected areas in the State in the second week of November 2005 for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds for floods in the second and third spells i.e. September and October 2005. Further action will be taken on receipt of the report of the Central Team, as per the laid down procedure.

17. Both the installments of Central share of CRF of Rs.86.00 crore for the current year has already been released to the State Government on 30.5.2005 and 11.8.2005 respectively. In addition, an adhoc release of Rs.357.00 crore was made to the State from NCCF on 11.8.05 for floods in July-August, 2005.

18. In Tamil Nadu, during the last week of October, 2005, there were heavy rains and floods in Chennai and adjoining districts. A flood situation also developed due to an unprecedented inflow of water into the Mettur Dam and consequent discharge of water in the Cauvery basin. Floods were also reported from Krishnagiri Vellore District belt due to incessant rains.

19. As per preliminary reports, the extent of damage reported by the State Government, since the onset of North East Monsoon, is as under:

a) No. of persons died : 64

b) No. of villages affected : 750

c) No. of villages marooned : 125

d) No. of persons marooned : 7.00 lakhs.

20. About 360 relief centres were opened and 12 lakh food packets supplied in the relief centres and affected areas. Coast Guard at Madipakkam (Kanchipuram Distt.) and Army at Pulianthope area in Chennai assisted the State Government in rescue operations including movement of supplies.

21. The State of Tamil Nadu has been allocated an amount of Rs.209.08 crore in CRF for the year 2005-06 consisting of Rs.156.81 crore as Central contribution and Rs.52.27 crore as State contribution. The first installment of Central share of CRF of Rs.78.40 crore for the current year would be released to the State Government upon receipt of information relating to the crediting of earlier released funds, utilization certificate and Annual report.

22. An inter Ministerial Central Team has visited the flood affected areas in Tamil Nadu from 17-18th November, 2005. Further action for providing financial assistance would be taken on receipt of the report of the Team as per the laid down procedure.

23. The Union Territory of Pondicherry has also experienced heavy rains and floods during the current North East Monsoon. These floods have caused inundation and resulting in damage to roads, bridges and agricultural land, thereby disrupting normal life in the UT of Pondicherry. A causeway bridge across the river Arasalar in Karaikal district was washed away due to torrential rains.

24. The UT of Pondicherry has reported damage to 47000 houses and cropped area measuring 7015 ha. The tentative assessment of damage in various sectors like agriculture, public works, electricity, local administration, animal husbandry, housing etc. has been estimated by the UT Administration at Rs.150 crore.

25. 90 relief camps are reported to have been organized in Pondicherry and 30 in Karaikal District to accommodate affected people.

26. The Inter Ministerial Central Team constituted for assessment of damage due to floods in Tamil Nadu has also visited Pondicherry to assess the damage caused due to floods in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Further

action for providing financial assistance would be taken on receipt of the report of the Central Team and in accordance with the laid down procedure.

27. The relief and rehabilitation measures being undertaken by the UT Administration will be provided from the budget provision of UTs maintained by the MHA.

28. I would like to assure the Members that the Government of India will extend all required financial and logistic support to the States to supplement their efforts in meeting the situation caused by the natural disasters effectively and continue to work to bring improvement in the Disaster Management Mechanism. I would like to seek the valuable suggestions from the Hon'ble Members in this regard.

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12.32 hrs.