

Press Release

The Economic Times dated 2.2.2016, carried an article entitled "TN Response to Flood Was Slow, Says Central Report". This report has been picked up by other media subsequently without verifying the veracity of the claims made by the reporter of the Economic Times. The article in the Economic Times claims that an analysis by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has revealed that floods in the city were because of "poor drainage systems and overflow of dam water, not only because of excessive rains". The article also states that the study of the floods by a group of scientists and officials has said that the flood could have been avoided if the disaster response of Tamil Nadu had been as quick as Odisha or Gujarat. The article quotes a senior official of the Ministry of Earth Sciences stating "We gather flooding in Chennai was because an overflowing water body had been let open and the drainage system of the city was not equipped to handle the water flow" etc.

It is clarified that the report filed by the correspondent of Economic Times dated 2.2.2016 is totally baseless and false. The Government of Tamil Nadu sought a clarification from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India on the issue. The Ministry of Earth Sciences vide its letter D.O.No. MoES/ATMOS-OBS/XII-IMD/2012, dated 3.2.2016 has categorically clarified that no such report exists as claimed to have been prepared by the Ministry on recent Tamil Nadu floods as mentioned in the Economic Times article published on 2.2.2016. The letter states that the Ministry fully

disowns the inferences articulated by the reporter of Economic Times. A copy of the letter issued by the Ministry of Earth Sciences is appended.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu had issued a detailed Press Statement on 13.12.2015, and pointed out that the floods in Chennai on December 1st, 2015 was a rarest of rare natural calamity and were not caused by any failure in the management of water releases from reservoirs.

In fact, Government of Tamil Nadu's handling of the rescue, relief, restoration and rehabilitation operations in the wake of the unprecedented rains and floods in November and December, 2015 has come in for widespread acclaim and appreciation.

Chief Secretary

Issued By: DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai 9