

Press Release**Meeting of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa with Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs on 13.12.2015**

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa at the Secretariat today (13.12.2015). The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa apprised the Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs Thiru M.Venkiah Naidu of the unprecedented magnitude of the calamity that struck the coastal Districts of Tamil Nadu including the city of Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore. The rainfall in Chennai in November, 2015 was 101.8 cms. which is the second highest rainfall recorded since 1918 in the month of November. Further extremely heavy rainfall was received in the first three days of December. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that this grim situation was further worsened by the releases from reservoirs in southern Andhra Pradesh namely Pitchattur dam and the Krishnapuram dam which flow into water bodies and drainage systems in the northern Districts of Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister outlined the extensive damage to infrastructure including roads, bridges, water supply and electricity systems in the floods. Although the State Government machinery under Hon'ble Chief Minister's directions had taken the necessary advance precautionary and preparedness measures under, the unprecedented, mammoth adversity necessitated financial and logistic assistance from the Government of India. Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, NDRF personnel, apart from Police, Fire & Rescue Services and staff drawn from different Departments, local bodies and State undertakings were deployed. Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that in all, 18,94,538 persons were evacuated and moved to safer places throughout the State and put up in 6775 relief centres.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that as the flood damages have been extensive and cover a number of sectors, special mitigation measures and programmes would have to be launched. Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted certain critical areas with which the Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs is directly connected.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister specifically drew attention to the plight of the slum dwellers who were residing along the city's water ways, Adayar, Cooum and Buckingham Canal, who have lost their homes and all their belongings in the floods. Their lives have been worst affected. They are all currently housed in relief centres. Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that rehabilitating the slum dwellers residing along the Chennai waterways is the

highest priority for the Government. As per the detailed enumeration taken up by Government agencies, there are about 50,000 such families who live along the three major waterways. These families would have to be provided alternative housing at other locations.

Hon'ble Chief Minister informed the Union Minister that a special project to construct alternative housing for these families has been prepared for which funding of Rs.5000 crores. **The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to provide financial assistance by way of special grant for this massive housing project as a special scheme considering the magnitude of the devastation.** Hon'ble Chief Minister re-iterated that **this is a programme of the highest priority for the Government.**

In addition, Hon'ble Chief Minister also sought a special package of financial assistance of Rs.750 crores for in situ construction of a further 50,000 tenements for families living in slums in Chennai Metropolitan Area who have lost their huts in the heavy rains under the Government of India's scheme of Housing for All. While Central Government assistance would be at the rate of Rs.1.5 lakh per house the State Government would contribute Rs.1 lakh per house, making a total grant of Rs 2.5 lakh for in situ construction of permanent housing.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also drew attention to the extensive damage to roads, drinking water, sewerage and storm water drainage systems in the flood affected urban local bodies. **These urban local bodies including Chennai Corporation would require substantial assistance to restore these systems. Preliminary estimates of the requirement exceed Rs.4,500 crores.** The Urban Local Bodies cannot rely on their own sources of tax revenue since the residents have already suffered large financial losses. The Hon'ble Chief Minister urged the Union Ministry of Urban Development to grant a special package of assistance of Rs.4,500 crores for the flood affected urban local bodies in Tamil Nadu.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that during the flood period a large number of passengers used the Metro Rail alongside the buses of the State Transport Corporation. It is therefore necessary to expand and improve the services of public transportation including the Metro Rail system in Chennai. Hon'ble Chief Minister reiterated the request for speedy approval of the extension of the Phase I of the Metrorail corridor from Washermanpet to Tiruvottriyur at a cost of Rs.3,770 crores which is pending with the Government of India.

The Union Minister expressed deep sympathy for the extent of damage that the floods have caused in Tamil Nadu. The Union Minister mentioned that the Government of India has an existing scheme under which 3 types of support are possible for housing development in slum

areas. It was indicated on behalf of the State Government that the Central support under these schemes was not very substantial and in view of the intensity of the disaster the fact that most of the affected persons will be unable to make their financial contribution at this stage, a special dispensation would have to be worked out for Tamil Nadu to provide substantial assistance for the construction of houses at alternative sites for those families who were residing in water courses.

The Union Minister also mentioned that the extension of Chennai Metro Rail Phase I from Washermanpet to Tiruvottriyur has been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development and sent to the Public Investment Board in the Ministry of Finance for clearance. The Union Minister assured that he would pursue the early clearance of the matter with the Ministry of Finance. The Union Minister also suggested that the State Action Plan which under the AMRUT programme which had already been submitted may now be modified based on the changed circumstances as a special case.

Thiru O Panneerselvam, Minister for Finance and Public Works, Thiru R Vaithilingam, Minister for Housing & Urban Development and Agriculture, Thiru K Gnanadesikan, IAS., Chief Secretary to Government, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, IAS., (Retd.) Adviser to Government, Thiru Atulya Misra, IAS., Commissioner for Revenue Administration, Thiru K Shanmugam, IAS., Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru Phanindra Reddy, IAS., Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Thiru S Krishnan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Thiru Dharmendra Pratap Yadav, IAS., Secretary, Housing Department and other officials were present.

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