

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"As you are personally aware, Tamil Nadu has received unprecedented extremely heavy rainfall during the on-going North East Monsoon season. It has led to widespread flooding causing extensive devastation, disrupting normal life and causing considerable hardship particularly to the poor and the vulnerable. The Government of India has also declared the floods in Tamil Nadu "a calamity of severe nature".

The Government of Tamil Nadu has undertaken massive rescue and relief operations in close co-ordination with Central Government agencies. Several measures have been taken to provide relief to the affected people such as ex-gratia for loss of human life and compensation for loss of cattle and damaged huts. There are lakhs of people whose houses have been inundated in floods forcing them to leave their houses for several days and also causing extensive damage to their belongings. The State Government had opened over 7,150 relief camps and provided food to over 19.63 lakh affected persons and also distributed over 1.35 crore food packets in affected areas. To mitigate the suffering and hardship faced by the affected people, the State Government is extending a relief package to the affected families, which includes rice besides other material as per the State Disaster Response Fund norms. **The requirement of rice, taking into account the food distributed through the relief centres, distribution of food packets in affected areas and the quantity required for the flood relief package is expected to be around 30,000 MT. As this requirement of rice will be in addition to the regular entitlement under the Public Distribution System, an additional allocation of rice will be necessary. In view of the urgency, I have directed my officials to commence the distribution of the additional quantity of rice to the affected families out of the existing stocks available with the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation for the Public Distribution System. I request you to kindly direct the Ministry of Food and Consumer Protection to make a special allotment of 30,000 MT of rice to Tamil Nadu at BPL rates.**

A large number of people, especially in urban slums and in rural areas, use kerosene and fuel wood for cooking purpose. Some of the households have even lost their LPG cylinders in the floods. Due to continuous heavy rains, fuel wood is not available. The allotment of kerosene to Tamil Nadu is far below the entitlement of the State. Therefore, it is imperative to supply additional kerosene to meet the needs of affected families, particularly those who do not possess LPG connections and those who have lost their LPG cylinder in the flood. There are nearly 38.20 lakh households without LPG connection in the affected Districts which received excessively heavy rainfall. **The requirement of additional quantity of kerosene to these 38.20 lakh households works out to 19,100 KL. I request you to kindly direct the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to allot 19,100 KL of kerosene to Tamil Nadu in addition to the regular allotment for issue under the Public Distribution System.** This additional kerosene will be supplied to cardholders in rain affected areas at PDS rates.

Given the severity of the disaster and the need to alleviate the suffering of the poor and the vulnerable in the flood affected areas, I request you to take immediate action on my requests for additional allotment of rice at BPL rates and kerosene at PDS rates and issue the necessary instructions to the Ministry of Food and Consumer Protection and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas."

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