

Northeast Monsoon has been active over the State since 15.10.2008. There has been widespread rainfall throughout the State and heavy rainfall is being received in all the districts. The State Government is fully prepared to meet any eventuality due to the monsoon.

On 20.10.2008, the Chief Secretary convened a meeting with the Secretaries to Government and Heads of Departments to take stock of the preparedness of all the concerned departments.

The Chief Secretary noted that the control room in the State Relief Commissioner's Office and in all the Collectorates have been activated by posting suitable staff round the clock. All the Collectors have been instructed to take contingency measures to meet any untoward situation. The Collectors have also been instructed to keep special watch on vulnerable areas such as river banks, culverts, bridges, tank bunds, etc.

The Commissioner, Chennai Corporation has been instructed to depute the staff of Chennai Corporation to all the areas for checking the storm water drains to prevent possible water clogging in the drains which may lead to inundation of the roads. He has also been instructed to remove all obstructions to rain water flow, repair the embankments wherever necessary, identify places for sheltering people affected by rain. Corporation should also keep in readiness adequate manpower to meet any eventuality. The Commissioner, Chennai Corporation was also instructed by the Chief Secretary to keep a check on the readiness on the Corporation of Chennai with regard to outbreak of any disease. He was also instructed to ensure that vulnerable areas are continuously patrolled and mitigative measures taken.

The Highways, Public Works Department and the Local Bodies have been instructed to immediately restore roads, culverts, river / tank bunds, etc., in case of damage / breaches and to keep special watch on the subways where flooding may arise due to heavy rains. The Chief Secretary has also instructed that there should be effective coordination between these Departments by pooling in adequate manpower and materials.

The CMWSSB have been instructed to check the quality of drinking water during monsoon and to take preventive action with regard to possibility of sewage water mixing with drinking water. Wherever desilting in the sewage lines is required, it should be completed immediately.

The Chief Secretary also instructed that where the roads have been dug up barricading should be done so as to prevent any accidents.

The Chief Secretary instructed the Health Department and Veterinary Services Department to take all necessary steps and ensure that adequate quantity of medicines are stocked and also to check for any outbreak of vector-borne and other diseases.

The Police and the Fire and Rescue Services Department have been instructed to keep sufficient number of rescue teams consisting of able bodied persons and necessary equipments for evacuation in times of need.

TNEB was instructed to coordinate with the District Collectors and to take necessary precautionary and restoration measures.

The Fisheries Department has been asked to coordinate with Coast Guard, Navy, Collectors and the IMD to ensure the safety of fishermen.

The Government will be continuously monitoring the rainfall situation throughout the State and everything will be done to mitigate the hardship of public arising out of the monsoon.

Issued by: DIPR, Chennai-9.