

PRESS RELEASE

Text of the D.O. letter dated 22.12.2015 of **Selvi J Jayalalithaa**, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu addressed to **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

"You are personally aware that many parts of Tamil Nadu received unprecedented torrential rains in the first week of December, 2015, leading to a deluge in the Chennai Metropolitan area and in the adjoining Districts of Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur as well as Cuddalore, Thoothukudi and Thirunelveli. 1st December, 2015, was the wettest day in December in the recorded history of Chennai. The extremely heavy rainfall on 1st December marooned a number of localities and severely inundated lakhs of houses. In the first five days of December 2015, Chennai recorded an excess rainfall of 883%; Kancheepuram, 1254% and Tiruvallur, 863%.

In view of the incessant rains in Chennai City and catchment areas of the Adyar, Cooum and Kosasthalaiar rivers, rain water could not drain causing inundation. The situation was worsened by release of water from reservoirs in Southern Andhra Pradesh including Pichathur and Krishnapuram which flowed into drainage systems in Northern Tamil Nadu. Roads were flooded and essential services, including trains and bus transport had to be suspended in many locations. Chennai Airport was closed for 5 days from December, 1st to 5th, 2015. Electricity supply had to be switched off in the inundated parts of the City due to the risk of electrocution. Telephone communication was severely disrupted. Banking services were affected badly, with ATMs becoming non-functional due to inundation. The flood waters heavily damaged durable assets and motor vehicles in many households.

Massive rescue and relief operations were immediately launched by the State Government on a war footing. On my instructions, Ministers of the Government of Tamil Nadu along with senior IAS officers personally supervised the relief operations in the State. Six teams of the State Disaster Response Force, 6 teams of the Coastal Security Group, 1400 personnel of the Fire and Rescue Services Department and 30,000 Police

personnel including personnel from the Tamil Nadu Special Police participated in the rescue. In all, more than 80,000 personnel of the State Government were involved in round the clock rescue and relief operations.

The State Government requisitioned deployment of the Armed Forces and the National Disaster Response Force to rescue and evacuate stranded people in flooded areas. 1200 Army personnel, 600 personnel from the Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force and 1920 NDRF personnel were deployed.

The rains and floods caused extensive devastation and damage to property and infrastructure. The Government of Tamil Nadu had submitted a Memorandum on flood damages in the State due to three earlier spells of rainfall and floods during the current North East monsoon period, on 23rd November, 2015, seeking financial assistance of Rs.8481 crores from Government of India. A Central Team headed by Thiru T.V.S.N.Prasad, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, visited Tamil Nadu from 26.11.2015 to 28.11.2015 and made an on the spot assessment of the damages at that time. **The fourth and most severe spell of rainfall was received only after the visit of the Central team.**

The Government of India released a sum of Rs.940.42 crores on 23rd November, 2015, which included Rs.133.795 crores towards the last instalment of the Central share for the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) 2014-15; Rs.254.625 crores towards the second instalment of the Central share for SDRF for 2015-16, and Rs.552 crores as Special assistance for projects out of the special allocation with NITI Aayog. The releases to the SDRF were not an additionality of funds, but a reimbursement of the expenditure already incurred by the State Government towards relief expenditure in 2014-15 and also in 2015-16. The sum of Rs.552 crores released towards Special assistance for projects is meant for funding specific plan schemes and cannot be utilised for temporary restoration work.

During your visit to Chennai on 3rd December, 2015, I had mentioned to you that the State Government was preparing a Supplementary Memorandum to cover the losses which did not find place in the earlier Memorandum. I had also requested you to immediately release at least Rs.5000 crores, on account, from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for immediate relief and restoration work. In response, you had kindly announced the release of Rs.1000 crores from the NDRF.

We have now prepared the supplementary Memorandum which reflects damages caused during the fourth spell of rainfall and the consequent floods in the first week of December, 2015. **Tamil Nadu immediately needs an additional sum of Rs.17,431.51 crores for temporary and permanent restoration. Including the earlier requirement of Rs.8,481 crores in the Memorandum sent on 23rd November, 2015, the State will need a total sum of Rs.25,912.45 crores for relief and restoration efforts due to the rain and flood damage.**

The State Government is committed to rebuilding infrastructure and reducing the distress caused to the people due to floods by providing gratuitous relief for the flood affected families. These costs are very large and it is very difficult for the Government of Tamil Nadu to meet the cost, particularly after the huge loss of Central tax devolution and transfers suffered by the State consequent on the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations.

The rains during the North East Monsoon this year have caused enormous devastation to standing crops, property and public infrastructure besides loss of livelihood, loss of life and cattle. The floods in Tamil Nadu have already been declared as a "Calamity of Severe Nature". I request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Home Affairs and the other concerned Ministries to expeditiously consider our two Memoranda for assistance on account of flood damages and devastation and release the necessary funds at the earliest to meet the State Government's requirement of Rs.25,912.45 crores.

I had requested the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Information and Broadcasting when he visited Chennai on 20.12.2015, for a further immediate on account release of Rs.2,000 crores from the National Disaster Response Fund to enable the State Government to sustain the vigour of the restoration operations. I also request you to kindly instruct the Ministry of Finance to expedite the on account release from the NDRF."

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