

Press Release

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru O. Panneerselvam met the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 19.12.2016 and presented a Memorandum about the damages caused due to cyclone 'Vardah' which struck Chennai on 12.12.2016 that caused extensive damages in the Districts of Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur in particular and also left a trail of destruction in the Districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Dharmapuri and Vellore. The Memorandum presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, assessed the fund requirement for relief and reconstruction work at Rs.22,573 crores. The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister to immediately depute a Central Team to Tamil Nadu to assess the damages as enumerated in the Memorandum. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also requested the Hon'ble Prime Minister for an 'on account' release of Rs.1000 crores as an immediate measure to enable the State Government to carry out the restoration works without any let up.

The Government of India constituted a 9 member Inter-Ministerial Team headed by Shri. Praveen Vashista, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to assess the damages caused by Cyclone Vardah. The team comprises - Dr. K. Manocharan, Director-in Charge, Directorate of Tobacco Department, Chennai, Shri. R.B. Kaul, Assistant Director, Ministry of Finance, Shri. K. Narayana Reddy, Under Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Dr. R. Roshini Arthur, Senior Regional Director, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shri. Sumeet Kumar, Deputy Director, Central Electricity Authority, Shri. D.S. Arvind, Regional Officer, Ministry of Road Transport, Chennai,

Shri. S.B. Tiwari, Under Secretary (Skills), Ministry of Rural Development and Shri. R. Azhagesan, Director (Monitoring) Cauvery and Southern Rivers.

The Inter-Ministerial Central Team met the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat today (28.12.2016). The Hon'ble Chief Minister in his remarks stated that he is thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for deputing the Central team to the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that on December 12th, Chennai city was struck by Cyclone Vardah. This was a very destructive cyclonic storm. Wind speeds reached up to 140 kilometres per hour. Based on the IMD alerts on 11.12.2016, the entire Government machinery was activated and precautionary measures taken to minimize the loss of lives. Extensive damage has been caused in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur Districts of Tamil Nadu. The cyclone also affected the Districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Dharmapuri and Vellore. Due to high wind speeds infrastructure, in particular, power sector was badly affected. More than 1.50 lakh well grown trees were uprooted.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that rescue and restoration work was taken up on a war footing by the State Government. Teams of Ministers and Senior IAS officers were deputed to the affected Districts and Greater Chennai Corporation to supervise the relief and restoration operations. Massive operations were launched for resuming power supply and clearing the road blocks. The Police, Fire service and NDRF team were extensively used. Equipment including power saws, JCBs and tipper lorries were mobilized from all over the State and neighbouring States. The State Government released Rs.500 crores from State Disaster Response Fund for immediate relief and restoration activities. Teams were formed to assess the damages and relief is being given to the affected people. The Hon'ble Chief

Minister stated that he had presented a detailed Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 19.12.2016, assessing the fund requirement for relief and reconstruction works as Rs.22,573 crores.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Central team to make an in-depth assessment of the damages suffered by the State and to submit its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs immediately.

The leader of the Inter-Ministerial Team, Shri. Praveen Vashista, stated that even from Delhi, they were able to gauge the intensity of the cyclone based on media reports. The team leader stated that the team could see the speedy restoration works done by the State Government even as they arrived in the airport and on their way to the Secretariat. The team leader Shri. Praveen Vashista commended the quick restoration work undertaken by the State Government. The team leader Shri. Praveen Vashista assured the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the team will take up an in-depth assessment of the damages and submit its report at the earliest.

The Commissioner for Revenue Administration stated that the team will be visiting the Districts of Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur as well as important locations in Chennai city on 28.12.2016 and 29.12.2016. The team will be given a detailed briefing by the senior officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu before proceeding for the field visits.

Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition & Excise, Thiru P. Thangamani, Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration, Rural Development and Implementation of Special Programmes, Thiru S.P. Velumani, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Thiru R. Doraikkannu, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Thiru R.B. Udhayakumar, Adviser to Government of Tamil Nadu, Tmt. Sheela Balakrishnan, IAS., (Retd.), Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Thiru K. Shanmugam,

IAS., Additional Chief Secretary, Highways Department, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, IAS., Principal Secretary to Government, Public and Rehabilitation Department, Thiru Shiv Das Meena, IAS., Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Thiru K. Phanindra Reddy, IAS., Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary, Thiru Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS., Secretary, Revenue, Dr. B. Chandra Mohan, IAS., Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Dr. K. Satyagopal, IAS., Chairman and Managing Director, TANGEDCO, Dr. M. Sai Kumar, IAS., and other officials were present.

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