

PRESS RELEASE

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Selvi J Jayalalithaa met the Hon'ble Prime Minister Thiru Narendra Modi who visited Chennai for an aerial survey of the flood affected areas of the northern districts of Tamil Nadu today (3.12.2015). The Hon'ble Chief Minister apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the unprecedented magnitude of the calamity that has struck the northern coastal districts of Tamil Nadu including the city of Chennai, Kanchipuram, Thiruvallur and Cuddalore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that rainfall in Chennai in November, 2015 was 101.8 cm which is the second highest rainfall recorded since 1918. Further extremely heavy rainfall was received in the first two days of December itself. More rainfall has been forecast. Unprecedented heavy rainfall was recorded in Cuddalore, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur districts as well.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out that this grim situation was further worsened by the releases from reservoirs in southern Andhra Pradesh which flow into water bodies and drainage systems in the northern districts of Tamil Nadu. The major drainage systems of all this water is through the city of Chennai including the Adyar, Coovum, Kosasthalaiyar and other rivers. Heavy surplus flow of the four major reservoirs of Chennai city, Poondi, Sholavaram, Red Hills and Chembarambakkam has also further inundated the low lying areas in Chennai city. There has been extensive damage to infrastructure including roads, bridges, water supply and electricity systems.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister indicated that although the State Government machinery had taken the necessary advance precautionary and preparedness measures under the instructions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the unprecedented, mammoth adversity has necessitated financial and logistic assistance from the Government of India in a large measure. The State Government machinery was fully mobilized and

rescue and relief operations have been launched in full swing. Co-ordination teams comprising Ministers and Senior Officials of the Government were deployed in each district and evacuation and relief carried out on a war footing.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister stated that so far in the four districts of Chennai, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram 325000 persons have been rescued and evacuated, 300 boats have been mobilised, 4327 relief centres have been opened, 9,39,030 persons have been accommodated in the relief centres, and 44,55,247 food packets have been distributed.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the help rendered by the Central agencies based on the Hon'ble Chief Minister's request. Nine columns of Army, 24 NDRF teams, 200 Navy personnel, 4 helicopters from Indian Air Force and 2 helicopters from the Coast Guard have been deployed for relief operations.

Considering the magnitude of the devastation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister requested that at least 10 more columns of the Army and another 20 teams of NDRF with necessary rescue equipment may be immediately sent, especially in view of the fact that more rains have been forecast by the Meteorological Department.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that a Memorandum had been submitted on 23rd November, 2015 outlining an initial requirement of Rs 8481 crores. Hon'ble Chief Minister also mentioned that the State Government had sought an on account release of Rs 2000 crores.

Hon'ble Chief Minister thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister for having immediately deputed a central team to assess the damages and releasing a sum of Rs 940 crores to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Chief Minister further pointed out that she understood that the released amount of Rs 940 crores comprises Rs. 133.79 crores of arrears from 2014-15 towards the

State Disaster Response Fund, and Rs 254.62 crores towards the second instalment of SDRF for the current year. The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that against these amounts, the State Government has already incurred expenditure from the SDRF.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also indicated that the package of Rs 940 crores included a sum of Rs. 552 crores released as special assistance compensating Tamil Nadu for the loss consequent on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. This amount is intended for specific projects and not for flood relief.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that the massive devastation been caused by floods clearly justifies the declaration of this calamity, a National Disaster. Hence, the Hon'ble Chief Minister specifically requested that an 'on account' release of at least Rs 5000 crores may be made from the National Disaster Response Fund immediately.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister mentioned that since there had been further damages after the initial Memorandum had been submitted, the officials have been instructed to prepare a supplementary Memorandum detailing subsequent damages, which will be submitted to the Government of India shortly.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister agreed with the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the situation in Tamil Nadu was unprecedented and expressed concern at the seriousness of the situation. He said Chennai is a growth centre and anything that affects Tamil Nadu affects the whole country.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister acceded to the request of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to deploy 10 additional Army columns and 20 NDRF teams and instructed his officials to ensure that the personnel are deployed immediately.

Responding to the request of the Hon'ble Chief Minister for an immediate "on account" release of Rs 5000 crores from the National Disaster Response Fund, Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the immediate release of Rs 1000 crores from the National Disaster Response Fund.

Issued by: Director of Information and Public Relations,
Chennai – 9

Dated: 3.12.2015