PRESS RELEASE

Aid Given is Advance, More to follow : PM tells Governor

Honorable Governor Shri. Justice (Retd) P.Sathasivam met the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Saturday, 25th August in New Delhi and briefed him about the hardships suffered by the people of Kerala due to the gravity of the recent floods and other natural calamities. He also briefed the Hon’ble Prime Minister on the pace of the relief and rescue operations being carried out in the State.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister informed the Honorable Governor that the Centre had provided aid and relief materials in a timely manner and without any reservation to the State. He mentioned that after his visit to Kerala on 17th and 18th August, he has been monitoring the situation on a daily basis.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister also said that on his instructions, the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), chaired by Cabinet Secretary and attended by senior officers of the Defence services, NDRF, National Disaster Management Authority, Secretaries of civilian ministries had monitored and coordinated rescue and relief operations through daily meetings from 16th to 21st August. Chief Secretary, Kerala, had attended these meetings through video conferencing.

The Honorable Prime Minister also highlighted how, based on these meetings, the Centre had launched massive rescue and relief
operations by providing and pressing into service 40 helicopters, 31 aircraft, 182 teams for rescue, 18 Defence Forces medical teams, 58 teams of NDRF, seven companies of CAPF, Navy and Coast Guard ships and over 500 boats with necessary rescue equipment.

During the discussion, the Honorable Prime Minister also conveyed that the financial mechanism to meet the rescue and relief operations during any notified disaster is governed by the guidelines on the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund. He clarified that SDRF has been constituted in each State with the Centre contributing 75% for general category States and 90% for the special category States of hilly regions every year, as per the award of the Finance Commission.

The Honorable Prime Minister reminded the Honorable Governor that consequent to the State Government’s submission of an Interim Memorandum on 21st July, an Inter Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) had visited the State from 7th to 12th August for an on the spot assessment. He also referred to the visit of Union Minister of State Shri. Kiran Rijiju on July 21st and that of Union Home Minister Shri. Rajnath Singh on 12th August. It is expected that the State Government will submit an additional memorandum on the damages caused by the second spell of floods in the State once the rescue efforts are over.

The Honorable Prime Minister has highlighted that to help the State, Rs.600 crore was released by the Centre in advance pending assessment by the IMCT and the high level committee, considering the possible delay in preparing and submitting the additional memorandum. He also said that this is in addition to the Rs.562.45 crore already made available in the State Disaster Response Fund of the State. Besides this financial support, the Centre has provided large quantities of emergency food, water, medicines and other essential supplies including food grains as
required by the State. He highlighted that normal rules and procedure have been set aside in view of the emergency nature of requirement in Kerala.

He also recalled that after his visit to the State, many measures including ex-Gratia payment from Prime Minister’s Releif Fund, building of damaged houses through PMAY, additional 5.5 crore person days under MNREGA to aid in highway repair and power restoration were announced.

The Honorable Prime Minister has clarified that the Rs 600 crore released by the Centre is only the advance assistance and assured that additional funds will be released from National Disaster Response Fund as per laid down procedure.

The Honorable Governor also met and apprised the Union Home Minister Shri. Rajnath Singh on the law and order situation and more importantly, the pace of the relief measures in the State. Shri. Rajnath Singh also assured the release of additional funds on completion of assessment of damages as per set procedure.

Sd/-

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