

Regarding need to improve the early warning system and provide real time updates during cyclones or floods, especially in coastal areas-laid

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY (ONGOLE): As per Government data, India remains the worst flood-affected country in the world, accounting for one-fifth of the global death count due to floods. Depression and Cyclonic Storms in Coastal States like Andhra Pradesh also cause frequent flash floods. Due to climate change, an increase in the frequency of these hazards, timing and severity is projected, according to a report by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). In such a scenario, an effective warning system is needed, as highlighted by NITI Aayog, which recommended a "focus on scientific research in the development of a model-based system to forecast flash flood with sufficient lead time". Our current Flash Flood Guidance System can only provide warnings about 6 hours-24 hours in advance. A more robust system is needed to forecast floods at least 48-72 hours beforehand. Coastal areas are facing additional challenges of weak signal strength, power outages, and damaged communication networks that hinder effective communication during these critical times. Therefore, I request the Government to improve our early warning systems and take steps to ensure last-mile coverage to disseminate early warnings, coordinate evacuation efforts, and provide real-time updates during cyclones or floods, especially in coastal areas.