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Title : Statement regarding Heavy rains /Floods and Stampede in a Relief Centre in Tamil Nadu.

\*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): There were four spells of heavy rains and floods in Tamil Nadu between 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005. Heavy discharge of water from reservoirs aggravated the situation, 22 districts were affected. Chennai city had torrential rains exceeding 44 cms between 26-28<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

2. The State Government has reported that 290 persons lost their lives. About 6 lakh houses were reportedly fully damaged. 3.88 lakh hectares cropped area were affected. The State Government has also reported substantial damage to infrastructure, including roads, power, water supply, telecommunication and public buildings.

3. The State Government organised 1,349 relief camps in 22 affected districts in which approximately 7.94 lakh families were accommodated. The Government of India has supplemented the efforts of the State Government by providing logistic and financial support.

4. The Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a memorandum to the Government of India in which assistance has been sought both for immediate relief operations as well as long term rehabilitation and reconstruction[\[ak13\]](#).

\* Placed in Library, See No. LT 3623/05.

The Government of India has released Rs. 1,000 crore as interim assistance on an *ad hoc* basis in two installments of Rs. 500 crore each. With regard to assistance for long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction, the State Government is required to submit detailed sector-wise plans for consideration of the Government of India.

5. There was an incident of stampede on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at a relief centre in Chennai city. Tokens for providing relief to a number of affected families were to be distributed at Arignar Anna Corporation High School, MGR Nagar, Chennai from 9.00 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2005. The State Government has reported that on that day about 4,000 persons had gathered in front of the gate of the Arignar Anna Corporation High School from the early hours of the morning. Due to a sudden heavy downpour at about 3.45 am, the public surged inside the relief centre pushing aside the gates without heeding to the police restrictions. In the melee, 42 persons lost their lives, 37 persons sustained injuries, and 12 police personnel were also injured.

6. The State Government has disbursed financial assistance of an amount of Rs. 1 lakh to the families of those who lost their lives, and Rs. 15,000 each to those who sustained injuries in this incident. The State Government has decided to appoint a Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge of the High Court under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to inquire into this incident. We are indeed saddened by this incident.

7. I would like to once again assure the hon. Members of the House that the Government of India would continue to provide all possible financial and logistical support to the State Governments affected by natural calamities. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what have they done after commissioning this inquiry in connection with stampede deaths? They have transferred the Collector and the Deputy Commissioner, and ordered to have an Inquiry Commission. Thereafter, one Councillor of the DMK has also been arrested. They are trying to cover their failure by pointing towards the DMK Party.

MR. SPEAKER: How can the Central Government do anything in it?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, I am asking the Central Government to have a CBI Inquiry. They are misusing the Central funds.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not bring local State matters here. Your observations on this matter have already been recorded.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : We want monitoring of the disbursement of the entire Central Government funds. We want a CBI inquiry into it. One Councillor of DMK, Shri Dhanasekharan has been arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make it a State Assembly.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, the Police Commissioner is falsely reporting against the DMK Party in front of the TV channels. Disciplinary action should be taken against the Police Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, this is too much.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : They are entirely misusing the Central Government funds. Therefore, we want a Monitoring Committee, and a CBI inquiry into this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. No, you will not respond. The hon. Minister will not be permitted to respond if you take the entire House to be run according to your sweet will.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are methods of raising it. You do not even bother to take the permission of the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not bother to show little respect to the Chair. Can you hold the House to ransom? I am sure, the Central Government -- according to its jurisdiction -- will look into it, and the hon. Minister has already assured it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not convert it into a State Assembly.

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\*Not Recorded.