

6. The Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by heavy rains during March 2008. Upon receipt of the memorandum, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted, which visited the State during 5-9 April 2008, for making an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. Further action will be taken on receipt of report of the Central Team, as per laid down procedure for release of Central assistance from NCCF.

Destruction of crops due to heavy rains in States

◆353. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large scale destruction of crops due to heavy rains has been reported recently from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to ascertain the loss due to the calamity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the details of the measures taken and relief/assistance sanctioned to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) to (e) The following States/UT Administration, based on their preliminary assessment, have reported damage to crops due to heavy rains/hailstorm States during March and April, 2008:—

Sl.No.	State/UT	Cropped area affected (in lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.28
2.	Karnataka	2.28
3.	Kerala	0.08
4.	Tamil Nadu	3.91
5.	Punjab	Being assessed
6.	Puducherry	70.16

2. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have submitted memoranda seeking Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by heavy rains/hailstorm during March, 2008. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams have been constituted immediately in respect of the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Teams have already visited these States for making on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. Further action will be taken on receipt of reports of the Central Teams as per laid down procedure for release of Central assistance from NCCF. The memorandum from the State of Andhra Pradesh and details from the UT of Puducherry have recently been received and Inter Ministerial Central Teams are being constituted to visit this State and UT. Memorandum from the Government of Punjab is awaited.

3. The State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support. Financial assistance in the

wake of natural calamities is provided to States through the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), allocation for which is made to various States based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions. CRF is supplemented by the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in cases of calamities of a severe nature after following the laid down procedure.

4. To ensure ready availability of funds with the States to undertake rescue and relief operations in the wake of natural calamities, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. Under the Scheme of CRF, the State Level Committee has been authorized to operate CRF in accordance with the items and norms of assistance approved by the Government of India for the notified natural calamities.

5. The Government of India has released the Central share of CRF during the year 2007-08 amounting to Rs. 219.99 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 71.11 crore to Karnataka, Rs. 70.70 crore, to Kerala, Rs. 178.24 crore to Punjab and Rs. 172.88 crore to Tamil Nadu. Union Territories are not covered under the Scheme of CRF/NCCF. Assistance in the wake of natural calamities is provided to the UTs from MHA budget.

6. In the meanwhile, in order to enable the State Government to meet the situation, the Government of India has released in advance, the first instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 37.115 crore to Kerala and Rs. 90.76 crore to Tamil Nadu for the year 2008-09 on 10th April 2008. Proposals to release Rs. 149.365 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 49.775 crore to the State of Karnataka as the first instalment of Central share of CRF are under consideration.

Plan to flush out Maoists from eight naxal affected districts

*354. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has picked up eight naxal affected districts in the country including Malkangiri and Rayagada in Orissa to flush out Maoists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre proposes to deploy a joint Central Security Force to tackle this menace; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame within which this menace is proposed to be controlled effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the concerned State Governments, who deal with the various issues concerned with law and order and public order, including naxalite activities in their area. The Central Government, however, closely monitors the situation and supplements the efforts and resources of the State Governments. In the process of reviews and interactions with the State Governments concerned, it has been felt appropriate that an integrated approach focused on the relatively more affected areas would help in optimal utilization of resources and thereby give surer results and, in the process, help in developing replicable strategies for other areas.