

CAPF personnel deployed in NE States, J&K and LWE affected areas as welfare measure.

- (ix) Designating retired CAPF personnel as ex-CAPF personnel for better identity and community recognition.
- (x) Promotions are released regularly to eligible personnel as and when the vacancies arise. Financial benefits under Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) are given in case promotion does not take place for want of vacancies at 10, 20 & 30 years of service.

Central aid for Kerala floods

1143. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how much was the total Central aid given to Kerala for flood relief;
- (b) how much was the amount requested by the State;
- (c) whether Central Government has any estimate of the amount required to rebuild the flood affected Kerala;
- (d) whether Government would consider the request of increasing the limit of loans by the State of Kerala;
- (e) what is the reason behind the decision of Centre to deny the help extended to Kerala by foreign countries such as UAE; and
- (f) whether Government is planning to give more financial aid and announce special package to rebuild Kerala, if so, how much?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) to (f) In the case of floods and landslides of 2018, based on the memoranda submitted by the State Government of Kerala seeking additional assistance of ₹ 5596.77 crore, a spot assessment was made by the Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT). Based upon the report of IMCT, the High Level Committee (HLC), in its meeting held on 06.12.2018 has approved the assistance of (i) Rs 3048.39 crore and (ii) Air bills, as per actuals.

In order to support the affected people of the State Government of Kerala, the Government of India (GOI) had released both the installments of the Central share of

SDRF amounting to ₹ 192.60 crore and ₹ 2904.85 crore, released from NDRF to Government of Kerala for relief measures. As such, an amount of ₹ 3405.93 crore is available in SDRF account for management of relief necessitated by natural disasters by taking into account the opening balance and releases of both the installments of Central and State share of ₹ 214 crore.

With regard to loan limit, it is informed that there is no proposal pending with the Department of Expenditure for increasing the limit of loans by the State of Kerala.

The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that in the wake of Kerala floods, some foreign countries expressed their sympathies and their willingness to assist in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. In response, Government expressed deep appreciation for such offers and conveyed that in line with existing policy, India is committed to meeting requirements for relief and rehabilitation through domestic efforts. It was further conveyed that contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from NRIs, PIOs and international entities such as Foundations would however, be welcome.

The primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the State Government. To supplement the efforts, financial assistance is provided to the affected States from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per laid down procedure. With regard to provide financial package, it is stated that under the SDRF/NDRF, there is no provision to providing any special financial package for the affected State.

Protection of witnesses

1144. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to ensure protection of witnesses in criminal and other proceedings before courts and tribunals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government proposes to bring a law which will include provisions on witness protection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANS RAJ GANGARAM AHIR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs prepared a "Witness