

CHAPTER - VIII

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE INTER-MINISTERIAL CENTRAL TEAM DEPUTED TO ASSESS THE DAMAGES IN THE WAKE OF HEAVY RAINS/FLOODS-2005 IN PONDICHERRY AND KARAIKAL

The deep depression that formed over South-West Bay of Bengal in October, 2005 near 500 Kms East, South-East of Chennai caused wide spread rainfall with heavy to very heavy rainfall in the U.T. of Pondicherry and in the coastal regions of the adjoining states of Tami Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, two more deep depressions were formed in the Bay of Bengal resulting in continuous/incessant rainfall till 13.11.2005 causing severe damage to both public and private properties, besides loss of human lives. The details of rainfall during the current monsoon up to 13th November, 2005 are as follows:

Table-16

Period	Rainfall	
	Pondicherry	Karaikal
October, 2005	151.50 mm	342.00 mm
November, 2005		
1.11.2005	60.00 mm	---
2.11.2005	---	4.00mm
3.11.2005	4.50 mm	2.50 mm
4.11.2005	85.00 mm	22.70 mm
5.11.2005	70.00 mm	86.60 mm
6.11.2005	73.00 mm	118.20 mm
7.11.2005	134.00 mm	157.20 mm
8.11.2005	38.00 mm	308.10 mm
9.11.2005	11.00 mm	74.80 mm
10.11.2005	---	2.40 mm
13.11.2005	--	58.60
Total	475.50 mm	1177.10mm

Both the Districts of Pondicherry and Karaikal were affected due to heavy rain/flood. The Taluk wise number of affected hamlets are furnished hereunder:

Table-17

Sl. No.	Taluk	No. of affected hamlets
Pondicherry District		
1.	Pondicherry	47
2.	Oulgaret	29
3.	Villianur	24
4.	Bahour	27
Karaikal District		
5.	Karaikal	22
6.	Thirunallar	2

Incessant and torrential rainfall:

Even before the commencement of the heavy rains, heavy rainfall had occurred in Tamilnadu and Karnataka and in the catchment areas of the Cauvery river as a result of which the feeder Dams like Sathanoor Dam and Mettur Dam reached its full capacity with concurrent heavy discharge of flood water. Resultantly, the tail end rivers namely Arasalar, Noolar, Vanjiyar, Pravadayanar, Thirumalairajan rivers of Karaikal District which are the distributaries in the Cauvery delta region and another major river namely Pennaiyar of Pondicherry District were flooded above the warning/danger level. The details of the over flow of flood water in the major rivers of Karaikal District are as follows:

Table-18

River	Actual Level	Warning level	Danger Level
Arasalar	2.20m	1.83m	2.23m
Vanjiyar	3.00m	2.63m	3.03m
Noolar	3.00m	2.65m	3.05m
Tirumalairajanar	1.84m	1.74m	2.14m
Pravadayanar	2.20m	1.79m	2.19m

Damages to the infrastructure maintained by Public Works Department

Consequent to the heavy flood, the cause-way constructed to maintain traffic on NH 45-A over river Arasalar was washed away and hence the vehicular movements to the Southern part of Karaikal and the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu through Karaikal

was cut off. The original bridges was damaged due to the impact of tsunami waves during December 2004. The vehicles plying through Karaikal were diverted to a circuitous route through Peralam which caused them to travel an extra distance of more than 40 Kms. In addition roads are damaged with pot-holes and necessitate the immediate repairing works.

The Road sector is the worst affected area and the wearing coat of all types of roads are severely damaged and hence it requires resurfacing the damages entirely. Also the shoulder erosion is also noticed in many of the roads and its embankments. As such it needs strengthening of shoulders and protection of roadside berms. In order to discharge the stagnation of water in some areas the road side drain shall be regraded.

The torrential rain in the catchment area of Cauvery basin resulted in release of flood water in the Cauvery river and the Thenpennaiyar river caused floods flowing above MFL in all the tributary rivers of Pondicherry and Karaikal. At the same time severe North East monsoon rain was also experienced in the deltas of Pondicherry and Karaikal which damaged the river bunds. In many places the riverbanks were overtopped causing inundation of fields and near by residential areas. As such strengthening/protection of river bunds are very much essential. The uncontrolled flow has also damaged the old regulators and bed dams of both Pondicherry and Karaikal. The shuttering arrangements needs rectification.

The severe North East rainfall damaged most of the Government offices and school buildings and severe dampness is noticed even though proper drainage arrangements are made and properly maintained. Also it is proposed to take up leak proof treatment in aged buildings to avoid dampness.

The severe North-East rainfall damaged most of the pump houses and public Health Laboratory at Karaikal and severe dampness is noticed even though proper drainage arrangements are made and properly maintained.

The details of damages are estimated as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Table-19

Sl. No.	Descriptions	Damages
1.	Roads	45.0371
2.	Irrigation and Flood Control	63.1800
3.	Government Buildings including schools	5.9161

In this connection an amount of Rs. 6.1791 Crores was already spent by this administration in anticipation immediate relief from the Gov. of India as the amount

spent was necessitated for restoring the road links to the vehicular movements and to strengthen the bunding of rivers to avoid breaches.

Damages to the infrastructure maintained by the local bodies:

Torrential rains that lashed Pondicherry and Karaikal during the first week of November 2005 caused severe damages to the infrastructure facilities provided by the Local Bodies such as roads, drains, culverts, water supply system, buildings, etc. Many low lying areas were stagnated with water in Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Reconstruction / relaying of internal roads, drains and culverts:

There was very severe damage to the roads and drains maintained by the Local Bodies. 304.74 Kilometers of B.T. roads have been damaged necessitating re-laying of entire stretch of the roads damaged. Besides 17.04 Kilometers of earthen roads have also been damaged in the wake of recent rainfall/flood and as a long time solution they are to be converted as B.T. Roads. In addition, some of the B.T. Roads are to be converted as cement concrete roads to have long standing durability and to ensure free flow of water during rains. The total cost towards reconstruction / relaying of roads including culverts and drains as detailed above works out to Rs.44.31 crores.

De-silting of drains and channels:

The Local Bodies have constructed and maintain major 'U' drains like Pappammal Koil drain, Gundu Salai drain, J.J.Nagar drain, Krishna Nagar drain, etc. for free flow of storm water. These drains could not withstand the heavy floods. As a result, stagnated water inundated the residential areas. In order to prevent such occurrences in future, it is proposed to take up the work of desilting of major drains. Besides, the side drains under the maintenance of rural local bodies are also under severe damage causing flooding and inundation of residential colonies. To avoid water logging which results in water borne diseases it is proposed to desilt the drains and channels at a cost of Rs.394.27 lakhs.

Filling up of low lying areas:

Many residential colonies have come up in low lying areas and during heavy rains these residential areas are flooded. The Local Bodies also find it difficult to bail out the water as there is no proper outlet in certain areas. Therefore the residential areas which are in low lying areas have been identified and it is proposed to raise up the ground level by undertaking the earth filling work. The total cost towards such the works is reckoned to be Rs.173.15 lakhs.

Since Pondicherry being Union Territory **no fund** under CRF and NCCF account has been allotted. Therefore, this Administration approached Government of India for full Central Assistance for reconstruction of damaged assets and to meet out the relief assistance. The existing budget provisions are not enough to meet the unforeseen

expenditure like this calamity. Moreover due to the tsunami devastation in December 2004 and consequent relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by this Administration the existing Revenue has been drained and therefore full financial assistance worth Rs.199.41 crores rounded to Rs.200 crore was sought from the Government of India for relief assistance, restoration and reconstruction of damaged assets / infrastructures in the flood / rain affected areas of both the Districts of Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Government of Pondicherry has requested the Government of India to sanction Rs.200 crores as full Central assistance in order to take up immediate relief and restoration activities for the damages caused during the recent heavy flood which paralysed the normal life and crippled the economy of this Union Territory of Pondicherry. It is also requested at least Rs. 39.29 crore may be immediately released under calamity relief fund.

The Central Team has been requested that Rs. 61.48 crore may be recommended as additional central assistance under Plan to our Union Territory in the Revised Annual Plan 2005-06 to undertake immediate works for restoration of damaged roads, culverts, overhead tanks, irrigation channels etc. It is also requested a sum of Rs.98.65 crore may be recommended as additional central assistance under Plan to undertake other works in the Annual Plan 2006-07.

The sector wise damaged infrastructure needs to be funded in the Revised Annual Plan 2005-06 is given below :-

(Rs. crore)

Table-20

Sl. No.	Items / Description	Additional Amount required in RE 2005-06 under Plan	Additional Amount required in B.E. 2006-07 under Plan
1	Highways (PWD)	12.6846	29.5975
2	Internal Roads, Drains, Culverts (Local Bodies)	22.6050	21.7101
3	Irrigation & Flood Control (PWD)	18.2268	42.5291
4	Building damages including schools (PWD)	1.7748	4.1413
5	Desilting/ reconstruction of drains and channels (Local bodies)	3.3885	0.5542
6	Filing up of low lying areas (Local bodies)	1.7315	-
7	Draining off flood water (Local bodies)	0.1160	0.1160
	Total	61.4757	98.6482