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Chief Minister

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Camp in flood-hit districts, CM tells district ministers

BSY announces immediate relief of Rs 10k each to affected families

BENGALURU, DHNS

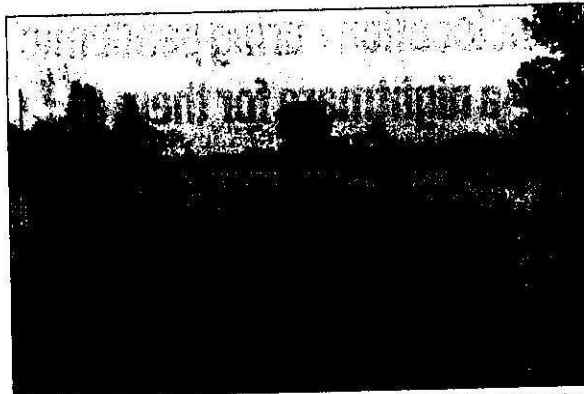
As farmland and low-lying areas in nine districts of the state were inundated, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Thursday directed all district-in-charge ministers to camp in their respective districts and monitor flood measures and relief.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka will travel to flood-hit regions of Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts on Friday, while Housing Minister V Somanna travelled to Kodagu on Thursday noon.

The government an-

nounced immediate relief of Rs 10,000 for the families affected by floods and Rs 5 lakh compensation for completely damaged houses. Yediyurappa instructed the ministers to remain in their constituencies and tour the affected areas. "Relief distribution and other measures should be taken up," he said, adding that ministers were empowered to take decisions for emergency work due to flood relief.

The chief minister was the only minister in the state Cabinet last year, when parts of north Karnataka and Malnad region were flooded.



The overflowing Markandeya river has flooded vast tract of paddy crop at Kadoli in Belagavi taluk. DH PHOTO

Yediyurappa has directed authorities to conduct a survey regarding crop loss and submit reports. "Daily report on total loss must also be submitted," he said.

Ashoka said that the threat of flooding in the banks of river Krishna in north Karnataka

was less due to dam management strategies adapted by Karnataka and Maharashtra governments, post the devastating floods last year. National Disaster Response Force teams are already in Kodagu, Udupi and Belagavi districts, he said.

SDRF to recruit 100 ex-servicemen

In order to augment the existing strength of State Disaster Response Force, Karnataka will hire 100 ex-servicemen, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Friday.

While the current strength of SDRF was 275, recruitment of 100 more personnel will be completed in the next few days, he said. Apart from it, additional motorboats, rescue vans, drilling machines and other equipment will be added to improve the facilities in SDRF to react to such incidents, he said.

SDRF teams will be positioned across the state.