

Flood losses pegged at over ₹9,400 cr.

Minister admits estimate is likely to go up because of recent rains across State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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In the midst of floods, the State government has revised the estimate of losses caused due to rains and floods this monsoon to ₹9,440.8 crore. The amount is likely to go up as several areas were affected by floods last week. "At this moment, we are not sure what the total consequences will be," Revenue Minister R. Ashok told the Legislative Council on Monday.

Responding during a discussion on the flood and rain fury in North Karnataka raised by Leader of the Opposition S.R. Patil, the Minister said that preparations anticipating heavy rainfall were started a month ago and that had reduced the loss of human and cattle lives. The State, he said, was also in the process of adding more taluks to the "flood-hit" list.

On the huge gap between the estimated loss of ₹33,000 crore and the relief of ₹1,800 crore received by the State from the Centre, Mr. Ashok said that National Disaster Response Fund norms were very old. "I have written letters to the Centre stating that the compensa-

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tion amount fixed for damage to private properties and lives were too low and that it may not be of help to flood victims. The issue has been referred to the Union Finance Ministry. Even though it may not help during this flood season, if the proposal is accepted it will be of help to all States," he said.

Meanwhile, he said Karnataka was building a permanent complex with community kitchen, medical care centre, and adequate number of bathrooms and toilets to house people displaced in flood-prone areas.



Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa speaking in the Assembly on Monday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Losses due to rains since April 1

Rain damage has been reported in 23 districts and 130 taluks

- Agricultural crops on 3.57 lakh hectares
- Horticultural crops on 52,759 hectares
- Plantation crops on 50,208 hectares
- 21,170 km of roads damaged
- 2,750 bridges damaged
- 18,535 electricity poles damaged
- 2,075 transformers damaged
- 3,074 km of power lines damaged
- 3,669 government buildings damaged
- 92 relief centres established
- 6,714 people in such centres

125 deaths

244 annual death

13,573 houses damaged

Have not got caste census report: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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Minister for Backward Classes Welfare B. Sriramulu on Monday said that the State government had not received the report on the caste census conducted by Karnataka Backward Classes Commission in 2015.

Responding to a question by BJP member K.P. Nanjundi on the status of the report, he said former commission chairman Kantaraju's term had expired and hence he had not submitted the report to the government. He said the commission had spent ₹162.77 crore on the census.

Mr. Sriramulu said that since nobody was heading the commission now, the government had not received the report. He also said that he would soon discuss the matter with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and request him to appoint someone so that the report is received.

Closing compensation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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The government is considering closing the compensation to be paid to those who have taken a part of money for house damage during last monsoon, but have not started construction. Revenue Minister R. Ashok said 5,779 persons who had taken ₹1 lakh had not started work on

their homes. "We are thinking of giving notice to such persons and close it [the compensation]. I will hold discussions with the Chief Minister," he said. So far, 1,895 persons have claimed the full compensation of ₹5 lakh. "An amount of ₹911 crore has been kept aside for compensation payment. People are not coming forward," he said.