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Floods: RDPR dept pegs loss to rural infra at Rs 1,000 cr

Seeks addl 50 work days for rural families under MNREGS

**SHRUTHI H M SASTRY
BENGALURU, DHNS**

The recent floods in the state have wreaked havoc on rural infrastructure causing damages to schools, anganwadis, roads, bridges and other public property. Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) has estimated losses at more than Rs 1,000 crores. The RDPR department has written to the Centre seeking an additional 50 work days under MNREGS to help rural families cope with loss to livelihood.

On Tuesday, the department has written to the Revenue department (Disaster Management) specifying that the rural infrastructure in Karnataka has suffered an estimated loss of Rs 1,105.31 crores. It has also sought funds for immediate repair works to the tune of Rs 360.

According to the RDPR department, the estimated loss of roads and bridges under Panchayat Raj purview is Rs 915 crores and that under the purview of Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency (KRRDA) is Rs 144 crores. Schools, anganwadis and other



partment has stated that there was a great demand for employment in rural households as both Covid-19 and the floods had resulted in massive losses to them.

The department has said the additional work days under MNREGS was needed. "To restore their (rural families) socio-economic status and also to avoid migration of rural people to cities in search of employment."

Speaking to DH, L K Atheeq, Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, said the additional work days would help at least 3 lakh families gain livelihood. The government would not require additional resources over and above what had been budgeted. The extra work days would permit families who had exhausted their hundred days to gain employment," he added.

DH FILE PHOTO

the floods have also caused losses to livelihood, the RDPR has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs, seeking 50 additional work days under MNREGS. At present, there is a provision for 100 work days under the scheme.

In the recent letter, the de-

partment has suffered an estimated loss of Rs 183 crores, among other identified losses.

Until now, the state government has declared 173 talukas across 25 districts as flood-affected areas.

Further, considering that

RAIN MESS



People wade through knee-length water in Egmore in Chennai on Thursday. The overnight rains inundated almost all low-lying areas in Chennai with the government facing serious questions on its "monsoon preparedness". Greater Chennai Corporation said waterlogging was reported from 57 localities across the city. The Met Department has forecast heavy rains on Friday as well. DH PHOTO

Koramangala will be flood-free in two months, assures BBMP

ST Bed Layout and 4th Block are problematic areas

BENGALURU, DHNS

The perennial problem of flooding in Koramangala will soon be a thing of the past, with BBMP building a parallel pipeline to drain excess water that gets accumulated in ST Bed Layout and 4th Block areas.

Local residents would find themselves living on an island whenever the city received heavy rainfall as the entire area would get inundated due to floods in the Koramangala

Valley. Following repeated complaints from residents, BBMP Administrator Gaurav Gupta on Wednesday inspected the area along with engineers from the stormwater wing of the BBMP.

Members of residents' welfare associations complained that during heavy rains, houses along 80 Feet Road would get flooded, and said excess rainwater must be diverted somehow.

Addressing their concerns, B S Prahlad, Chief Engineer



BBMP Administrator Gaurav Gupta inspecting the progress of pipeline work in Koramangala Valley on Wednesday.

(SWD), told Gupta the BBMP is already working to resolve the crisis.

Project K-100

"Currently, under Project K-100, rainwater from Ko-

ramangala Valley is being diverted to the Bellandur Lake. Whenever there is more rainfall, the linking secondary valley gets more inflow resulting in the flooding of adjoining areas.

"To overcome the problem, the BBMP has now planned to build an alternative pipeline, parallel to the secondary valley to clear this excess water," he explained.

Gupta later told officials to complete the civil work in the next one-and-a-half months and also instructed them to immediately take up white-topping work on 80 Feet Road, spanning 1.80 km, by excluding the pipeline work area.

He also inspected the work on the 2.40-km elevated corridor passing through Ejipura main road, Sony World junction and Kendriya Sadan.

Expressing displeasure over the slow pace of work, Gupta asked officials to increase the production capacity of pre-cast segments that are used to link the pillars.