



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## INDIA - Floods

Date: August 1986

Location: Andhra Pradesh State

No. Dead: 187

No. Affected: At least 245,000 people homeless

Damage: By preliminary estimates, damage to the irrigation system alone was put at \$560 million. In addition, more than 150,000 houses were damaged or destroyed; transportation links were severed; and crops on over one million ha were affected.

### The Disaster

Torrential monsoon rains during the first three weeks in August caused severe flooding in the Godavari River in India's southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh. As many as 3,775 villages were affected by the floods, which were described as the worst in the area in 134 years. Several villages were completely swept away by the rising waters, and hundreds of others were marooned for up to two weeks. More than 150,000 houses were destroyed or damaged, leaving at least 245,000 people homeless. Road and rail lines were breached and vital services disrupted. Agriculture in the region was seriously affected by the loss of crops on over one million ha in 13 districts and the extensive damage to some 1,500 sources of irrigation.

### Action Taken by the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh (GOAP)

GOI military personnel, using helicopters and naval vessels, joined the search for survivors and assisted the relief effort. Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated, and food was air dropped to stranded villagers. A disaster management center was established in the state capital of Hyderabad from which the situation was closely monitored. Relief camps were set up to provide temporary shelter for over 200,000 displaced persons.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi surveyed the stricken area and announced a central government advance of \$24 million for the care of flood victims in the camps, as well as the provision of 50,000 tons of rice, 5,000 tons of edible oil, and 10,000 kiloliters of kerosene. An additional \$240,000 was released from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced that the National Remote Sensing Agency would be asked to take aerial photographs of the flood-ravaged areas to help plan long-term rehabilitation measures and the construction of monsoon shelters.

Teams from the Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) were quickly dispatched to the disaster area to assess needs and begin distribution of relief supplies. CASA provided 3,000 sets of relief items as well as medical assistance.

#### Assistance Provided by the United States Government

Based on reports of the devastation caused by flooding in Andhra Pradesh, U.S. Ambassador John Dean determined on August 26 that a disaster existed which warranted USG assistance. Exercising his disaster assistance authority, he contributed \$25,000 to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

TOTAL	\$25,000
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#### Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

CWS - \$58,000 to CASA for relief items.

World Relief - sent funds to assist the relief activities of the Brethren Mission in India, value not reported.

TOTAL	\$58,000
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#### Assistance Provided by the International Community

WCC - provided \$80,000 as an immediate response to the needs resulting from flooding in four states, including Andhra Pradesh. The WCC issued an appeal for \$150,000 to recoup funds advanced.

TOTAL	\$80,000
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