

The New Indian Express 03.12.2010

Local bodies can use fund for rain relief

PUDUCHERRY: The department of local administration has approved utilisation of additional funds for flood relief work by the local bodies, said Public Health and Local Administration minister A Namassivayam at a press meet here on Thursday.

He said that village pancha-yats have been permitted to utilise Rs 10,000 each, commune panchayats up to Rs 1 lakh and municipalities up to Rs 2 lakh each. After identifying the works, such as desilting, pumping of water and clearing of uprooted trees, the works could be taken up. This approval has been given in advance to avoid delay in sanctioning the execution of the work.

The devolution of powers to municipalities that include administrative and financial would be made soon. Already powers have been devolved for commune panchayats and villages panchayats, he said.

He said the State Election Commissioner would be appointed soon. The government has shortlisted a panel of two names for selection.