

SHRI KSHETHRA DHARMASTHALA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (R.)

Participation of Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala in flood relief programmes of Uttara Karnataka

In October 2009, fifteen districts of North Karnataka State were affected by heavy rains and floods. A total of 229 lives were lost in the floods. Beside hundreds of animals were also washed away. However, the biggest loss was on property. Nearly five lakh houses were either completely or partially damaged. Thousands of kilometers of road and several hundred bridges were destroyed. Thousands of acres were filled with silt making them uncultivable. Thousands of acres of standing crops and sown area were inundated and lost.

The Govt. of Karnataka in this regard has taken a decision to shift **347 perennially flood affected villages by constructing new villages**. The Govt. has requested support from all institutions in this gigantic task.

Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala headed by Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade and Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project (SKDRDP) swung into action immediately. Six truck loads of rotis numbering nearly nine lakh were sent. Besides, Kshethra dispatched 2,000 saris and 1,500 dhothis to the flood affected area. SKDRDP which has offices in Dharwar, Haveri, Gadag and Uttara Kannada districts made a village to village survey of the property affected. Accordingly, it was estimated that 3000 houses are completely flattened and 33,000 houses were partially damaged in this area. Dr. Veerendra Heggade himself personally visited a few affected villages.

Responding to the request of the Government Dr. Veerendra Heggade has agreed to construct **1,000 houses in six resettlement villages at a cost of Rs. 10.00 crores**.

Besides, Dr. Veerendra Heggade has directed the field staff of SKDRDP to coordinate reconstruction of the affected houses in all the villages of Dharwar, Haveri, Gadag and Uttara Kannada districts by pooling the resources and meeting the short fall.

Accordingly, SKDRDP has opened an exclusive office named as "Swayam Nirman" headed by a senior officer, supported by an engineer and ten supervisors. The Swayam Nirman project will assist all the affected people to reconstruct their house by supplying them with the technology, material and mason support. The beneficiary is required to contribute manual labour, funds received by him as compensation from the Govt. The balance requirement will be contributed by SKDRDP. In this regard SKDRDP has published in its website an appeal to all philanthropic persons to contribute for this project. A project profile has already been prepared. It is estimated that a total of Rs. 83.00 crores is required to accomplish the task of rebuilding 36,000 houses.

As a pilot SKDRDP took Kallimata village in Navalagund taluk for implementing the project. In this village a total of 30 houses were constructed in a span of one month and handed over to the beneficiary at a cost of Rs. 14.00 lakhs approximately. **Now this project in phase II will be implemented in 200 villages over the next three months to complete almost 3,728 houses.**

SKDRDP has also identified contractors and builders to accomplish 1000 houses in the resettlement villages.