

The Hindu, Madras, 31 Oct 2007

Floods claim 31 lives in State

1,277 huts have been damaged

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CHENNAI Thirty-one lives were lost in the floods in the State from October 1 to 30, according to the Revenue Department.

The highest number of five deaths were reported in Cuddalore.

Four persons each died in Tirunelveli and Villupuram.

Twenty of the victims were men and eight women. The rest were children.

According to an internal report, 1,277 huts had been

- Highest number of deaths occurred in Cuddalore

- "Reporting system functioned with great speed"

damaged. The largest number was in Theni district (438), followed by Kanyakumari (203) and Nagapattinam (176).

As many as 133 heads of cattle had also perished.

Officials said that because of the effective monitoring and the presence of Ministers on the field, relief could be

taken to the affected.

Pointing to the number of cases in which financial assistance had already been provided, they said the machinery was able to respond quickly because the reporting system functioned with great speed and accuracy.

The kin of 13 persons killed

were given relief.

In the case of huts, 467 families were granted relief. There were another 711 families who were eligible for relief, the officials said, and these included those living in 168 huts that were inundated on Tuesday.

The Ministers, who were sent to monitor flood relief operations in the worst affected districts, filed daily reports and brought to the notice of the Chief Minister's office gaps, if any, in the relief work, the officials said.