

Flood: Rajnath announces ₹100-cr immediate relief

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Kochi: Union home minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday announced an immediate central flood relief of Rs 100 crore to the state. The minister, who made an aerial survey of affected areas in Idukki and Ernakulam, said rain had caused “massive damage” to the farm sector and infrastructure.

Singh was accompanied by chief minister Pinarayi Vi-



Home minister Rajnath Singh with those housed in the flood relief camp at Elanthikara, Paravur in Ernakulam district on Sunday

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jayan, Union minister of state K J Alphons and other senior government officials in reviewing the situation.

“Kerala is facing unprecedented floods. Never before in the history of independent India has Kerala witnessed such massive floods,” he said.

Singh said the Centre was sensitive to the state’s needs and it would leave no stone un-

turned in ensuring support. He visited a relief camp in Elanthikara, Paravur and interacted with those housed there before attending a review meeting.

The state government submitted a memorandum to Singh, seeking urgent sanction of Rs 1,220 crore to meet the situation. Vijayan said preliminary estimates suggested that Kerala suffered a

loss of Rs 8,316 crore in the rain, floods and landslides.

Meanwhile, rain lashed several parts of the state since Sunday morning after a brief lull. Water level in Idukki and Idamalayar dams has, however, come down.

External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj announced that passports damaged in floods in Kerala would be replaced free of cost.