

... AND THEY ALL CAME CALLING

Unlike some MLAs, ministers have been somewhat prompt in visiting flood-hit areas. *Express* takes a look at who went where

ALAPPUZHA DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Kuttanad

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar.



Number of relief camps in the district: **635**

Number of people staying at the camps: **1,81,795**

The relief work gathered momentum after the ministers directed all departments to speed up the activities. Around 170 camps are functioning in the panchayat. All roads in the panchayat are under water and the food materials are being brought in boats, so there is some delay. The floating dispensary under the District Medical Office is providing aid to people staying at the camps

Sheela Sajiv, Kainakari panchayat president

But, where is the Chief Minister?

Prominent among those who did a no-show is Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan



Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar interacts with flood-affected people in Kuttanad | EXPRESS

KOTTAYAM DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Vaikom.

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Forests Minister K Raju.



Number of relief camps in the district: **160**

Number of people staying at the camps: **30,612**

Vaikom suffered unprecedented losses as all the nine grama panchayats and the municipality were equally damaged in the rain havoc. Agriculture, coir and dairy development sectors, which are the lifeline of the region, suffered massive losses. Normal life won't possible in the inundated houses once the water recedes. A special package is needed for the rehabilitation of the people. We will meet the Chief Minister and other officials on Wednesday seeking their urgent intervention

C K Asha, Vaikom MLA

KOLLAM DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Eravipuram.

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Fisheries Minister J Mercykutty Amma.



Number of relief camps in the district: **3**

Number of people staying at the camps: **93**

The major problem here was the water inundation. We have managed to overcome the challenge through the coordinated effort of district administration

Binu Karunakaran, Munroe Thuruthu grama panchayat

EXCEPT...

ERNAKULAM DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Chellanam.

Has any minister visited the spot? No.

Number of relief camps in the district: **26**

Number of people staying at the camps: **2,489**

With water receding from the area, the possibility of an epidemic is high. A cleanliness drive will be organised in the coming days to prevent diseases in all the areas affected by rain. Most of the drainages and septic tanks are clogged and they will be cleaned. The drive will have the participation all the departments

Asha Sanil, district panchayat president

KOZHIKODE DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Karinchola

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Transport Minister A K Saseendran, Excise Minister T P Ramakrishnan and Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan.



Number of relief camps in the district: **4**

Number of people staying at the camps: **11**

A committee has been formed to take stock of the losses in the region. A compensation amount of Rs 4 lakh has been disbursed to the next of kin of each victim. The first instalment of Rs 1 lakh has been given to families whose houses had been destroyed. An amount of Rs 5,000 has been given to the injured. Now, we are taking stock of those whose houses had been damaged. We will be disbursing the compensation soon

T P Mohammed Shahim, panchayat ward member

KANNUR DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Iritty.

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Ports Minister Kadannappally Ramachandr, Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan, Health Minister K K Ylaja and Agriculture Minister V S Sunil Kumar.



Number of relief camps in the district: **0**

Number of people staying at the camps: **0**

Though the government had stepped in promptly during the landslides by providing food and clothes for those staying at relief camps, no other relief measures have taken place since then. Estimates were taken and sent to the concerned departments in connection with crop loss and loss due to the destruction of houses. But, the compensation distribution hasn't started yet

Sheeja Sebastian, Ayyankunnu panchayat president

WAYANAD DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Mananthavady.

Has any minister visited the spot? Yes, Ports Minister Kadannappally Ramachandran.



Number of relief camps in the district: **7**

Number of people staying at the camps: **230**

The magnitude of the rain has come down. A majority of the people have returned home. A lot of houses have been damaged. The agriculture sector has also suffered huge losses. The compensation package has to be disbursed

Geetha Babu, block panchayat president

MALAPPURAM DISTRICT

Worst-hit area: Ponnani.

Has any minister visited the spot? No.

Number of relief camps in the district: **5**

Number of people staying at the camps: **198**

Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan visited the affected areas and reviewed the condition on Saturday. Families were brought back to their houses after the municipality managed to pump water from waterlogged areas

C P Muhammed Kunji, Ponnani municipal chairman