GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2486
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

DESILTATION OF RIVERS

2486 DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government has taken for desiltation of rivers in the country;
(b) whether Government is planning for desiltation of rivers Damodar and Ganga/Hooghly or not;
(c) the steps Government has taken for desiltation of the flood prone West Bengal; and
(d) the steps Government has taken to forecast floods and rehabilitation post floods in the State of West Bengal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. Rivers pickup, carry and drop silt load as per their regime conditions i.e. discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. The issue of desilting of rivers has been considered by Government since long and in this context a multi-disciplinary Committee headed by Former Chairman, Central Water Commission in 2002 (Mittal Committee) has opined that large scale desilting of rivers in general is not feasible technically due to several reasons like non-sustainability, non-availability of vast land required for the disposal of dredged material etc.

Cost effective measures for removal of drainage congestion in specific reaches of rivers for channel capacity improvement and navigation purposes are formulated and implemented by concerned states / agencies as per their priority. Government of India renders assistance to States which is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature.

Damodar Valley Corporation, set up as per DVC Act (1948) for regulation of Damodar Valley has informed that there is no plan for desiltation of Damodar river.

(d) Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. CWC is presently maintaining a network of 16 flood forecasting stations in West Bengal out of which 12 are level forecasting stations and 4 are inflow forecasting stations. 488 number of forecasts were issued for the State of West Bengal in the year 2021 (till November). Damodar Valley Corporation also issues flood forecast upto Durgapur Barrage based on mathematical model in consultation with Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee.

Providing relief assistance in the wake of Natural Disasters is the responsibility of concerned State Government and it undertakes relief measures from State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) placed at their disposal in accordance with approved norms of Government of India. Additional assistance is provided from National Disaster Response Funds (NDRF) as per established procedure.

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