

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *251
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

Menace caused by Rydak and Sankosh rivers

*251. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Rydak and Sankosh rivers, which originate from Bhutan and flows into Kumargram Development Block of Alipurduar district in West Bengal, India, bring with it a huge amount of sand and stone which is threatening the very existence of Buxa Tiger Reserve, Khokhla Basti, Toribari Basti, Hasimara Jhora, Nandgaon;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Bhutan;
- (c) whether steps have been taken by Government to save the region of Alipurduar district; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) :- A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *251 ON MENACE CAUSED BY RYDAK AND SANKOSH RIVERS DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.03.2023

- (a) Erosion and deposition of silt are natural process in alluvial rivers. Rivers pickup, carry and drop silt load as per their regime condition i.e. discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. Floods are natural calamity that India faces almost every year, in varying degrees of magnitude due to various factors, viz. wide variations in rainfall; both in time and space, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion, landslides, poor natural drainage, snow melt, glacial lake out bursts and silting of river beds.

Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

- (b), (c) & (d) There exists a structured Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on flood management between India and Bhutan since 2004 where their aim is “to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Governments appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures”.

Further, there is a Joint Technical Team (JTT) since 2006 (under the aegis of JGE), whose main objective is to facilitate functioning of JGE by way of undertaking field visits in the affected areas on account of erosion, landslides etc.

Further, as reported by the State Government, plantation are taken up in the catchment areas of Sankosh and Rydak rivers in Buxa Tiger Reserve, Alipurduar to protect the forests of the said area from river bank erosion.

Plantation done in last five years at Sankosh and Rydak catchment areas of Buxa Tiger Reserve are as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Areas in Ha.
1	2018-19	82
2	2019-20	111
3	2020-21	46
4	2021-22	50
5	2022-23	45
