

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 833
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Impact of climate change in Assam

833. SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA:

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

- (a) the long-term schemes/plans of Government to help out the State of Assam and its people in mitigating the effects of constant floods and soil erosion; and
- (b) whether any assessment of the impact of climate change in Assam has been done by Government, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) As per information received from Ministry of Jal Shakti, flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. 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. So far central assistance amounting to the tune of Rs. 1514.46 crores has been released to the State of Assam under Flood Management Programme component of “Flood Management and Border Areas Programme” till December, 2022. Further, Central Water Commission is the nodal organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting and early flood warnings in the country. There are 30 Flood Forecast Stations operational in the State of Assam. The National Water Policy emphasizes flood mitigation through structural and non-structural measures, integrated operation of reservoirs with sound decision support system, rehabilitation of natural drainage system, integrated farming systems and non-agricultural developments and creation of storage projects with dedicated flood storage as the long-term solution to address the occurrence of floods.

India’s National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) provides the overarching policy framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation through its National Missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable, agriculture, health, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge for climate change. NAPCC represents multipronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. States/Union Territories were encouraged to develop their

Action Plans in line with the NAPCC. These Action Plans are known as State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC). It is a policy document wherein the States and Union Territories reflect the strategies and policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation taking into account the State specific issues relating to climate change. As on date, 34 States and Union Territories including, Assam, have prepared their SAPCCs. The key sectors under these SAPCCs are energy, agriculture, water, forestry and biodiversity, industry, animal husbandry, transport, coastal and marine ecosystem, disaster management, etc.

A sum of Rs 24.56 crore has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the State Government of Assam in a project mode to manage the ecosystem of Kaziranga National Park by creating climate resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities.

(b) There is no established study for India providing a quantified attribution of climate change leading to increased floods. While many studies monitor disasters such as floods, drought and heat, the science of attribution of these changes particularly to climate change is far more complex and currently an evolving subject. Most studies so far have relied on mathematical modelling of climate change impacts but these are yet to be empirically verified.

The occurrence of floods can be attributed to various factors, including wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, and poor natural drainage in flood prone areas.

Under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) implemented and coordinated by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), State Climate Change Cell has been established in the State of Assam which is mandated to study vulnerability and risk assessment at district level, institutional capacity building to attain the capability to handle climate change program, training programmes for various stakeholders to work for minimizing the impact of climate change.
