

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1204**

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

**DREDGING IN BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER**

1204. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that river Brahmaputra has the highest sediment yield per square kilometers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps for dredging in Brahmaputra River to reduce devastating flood across Assam; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b)** As per the data available in Brahmaputra Board, the river Brahmaputra has 1224 metric ton annual average sediment load per square km, which is quite high.

**(c) & (d)** Erosion, movement and deposition of sediment in a river are natural regulating functions of a river. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried and silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. Dredging/desilting of rivers is not considered a technically viable solution for flood control as it can marginally minimize the magnitude of floods and is effective only for a short period. Selective dredging in specific reaches such as tidal rivers, confluence points with narrow constrictions, etc. sometimes may have to be undertaken based upon local site conditions; however, the same should be backed by proper scientific study.

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 also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

As per information provided by Government of Assam, the State Water Resources Department has not taken up dredging in Brahmaputra River to reduce flooding. However, Water Resources Department, Government of Assam has taken some steps towards dredging of tributaries of river Brahmaputra and Barak. The State Water Resources Department had procured one Cutter Suction Dredger at a cost of Rs.18.00 Crore under SDRF during 2018-19. The Dredger was deployed for dredging of river Jiabharli and IIT Guwahati Water Plant during the year 2021-22 and 2022-23 as per the following approved schemes:

- i. Dredging Work at Jia Bharali River by Operating Cutter Suction Dredger Unit for the year 2021-22 (Estimated Cost of Rs. 167.60 Lakh).
- ii. Dredging works of Jia Bharali River at downstream by Operating Cutter Suction Dredger along with Fleet of Machineries for the year 2022-2023 (Estimated Cost of Rs. 90.57 Lakh).
- iii. Dredging Works at downstream of river Brahmaputra near IIT Guwahati water plant by Operating the Departmental Cutter Suction Dredger unit (Estimated Cost of Rs. 51.84 Lakh).

Moreover, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) takes up maintenance dredging in National Waterway -2 (river Brahmaputra) for improvement of targeted least available depth of 2.0 to 2.5 m in 45 m width of the deepest channel for navigation purposes during post-flood lean season.

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