

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 254

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

ADVERSE IMPACT OF FLOOD ON EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS

254. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY

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

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that frequent floods hurt employment opportunities in the rural agricultural sector, leading to inequality, poverty, and a food crisis; and

(b) if so, the details of the preventive steps that are proposed to be taken by Government keeping in mind that flood damage also adversely impacts the country's economic development and increases the fiscal pressure on the Union and State Governments for reconstruction, relief, and rehabilitation activities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Floods are natural calamity that the country faces almost every year, in varying degrees of magnitude leading to considerable damages to property, land, other infrastructure and even loss of human lives. This, in turn, adversely affects employment opportunities in the rural agricultural sector. 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. Integrated flood approach aims at adopting judicious mix of structural and non-structural measures to provide a reasonable degree of protection against flood damages at economic cost.

To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, Ministry had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood management, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, etc. which subsequently continued as a component of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP) for the period from 2017-18 to 2000-21 and further extended up to September 2022 with limited outlay. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 7013.65 crores has been released to State Government/Union Territories under FMP component of this Programme since its inception.

For Non-structural measures, Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. Presently, CWC issues flood forecasts for 338 forecasting stations (200 river level forecast stations & 138 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. In order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people & take other remedial measures, Central Water Commission (CWC) has also developed basin wise flood forecasting model based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling for 7 days advance flood forecast advisory at its forecasting stations.
