

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1847

ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

FLOOD CONTROL AND RIVER SILTATION IN THE STATE OF BIHAR

1847. SHRI SANJAY YADAV

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

- (a) whether about 73.06 per cent of the State of Bihar's geographical area prone to floods;
- (b) whether Government plans to introduce any National Siltation Policy for de-silting of rivers and dams;
- (c) whether Government has long term roadmap and planning to overcome problem of annual devastating floods specially in Kosi and Ganga rivers and their tributaries in Bihar; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to rope in the Nepal, Bihar and West Bengal Governments along with Ministry of External Affairs, scientists and geologists to have an effective solution for the problem of floods in Kosi river almost every year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) The country faces the problem of flood and erosion in varying degrees in different parts including the State of Bihar.

As per Flood Hazard Atlas of Bihar (2020), prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency in association with National Disaster Management Authority and Government of Bihar, about 76% of the population in the North Bihar lives under the recurring threat of flood devastation.

As per report of "Assessment of Area affected due to floods in India" published by Central Water Commission in 2024, Bihar has flood affected area of 29.14 Lakh Hectare based on satellite data from 1986 to 2022.

- (b) For the comprehensive and holistic management of sediments in river courses and water bodies, in a holistic manner, the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, in extensive consultations with Central Government Ministries/ Departments/ State Governments/ UTs have prepared the "National Framework for Sediment Management (NFSM)". Its emphasis is on reducing silt generation rather than silt removal and promote technological innovations & best practices. The framework lays emphasis on sediment management through integrated river basin management plan giving due consideration to environment and ecology. The same is available for download at the following link:- <https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/document/policy-on-sediment-management/>.

(c) & (d) The main reason for floods in the State of Bihar is on account of increased discharge in rivers of North Bihar like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Mahananda due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas which mainly lie in Nepal. The related issues are discussed in the existing Indo-Nepal bilateral three tier mechanisms comprising of (i) Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) (ii) Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) and (iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC). Government of India is having regular dialogue with the Government of Nepal for construction of dams on these rivers for mutual benefit of the two countries which includes flood control.
