

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3740
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Damage caused by the floods in Assam

3740. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government could have foreseen the damage caused by the floods in Assam considering the repeated warnings by experts regarding the issue of water-induced disasters in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details regarding the steps taken thereon; and
- (c) if not, the details regarding the steps taken by Government to predict such crisis in the future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) The Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting and early flood warnings in the country. CWC issues flood forecasts as a non-structural measure of flood management, to concerned State Governments at identified locations. Presently, flood forecasts are issued by CWC at 340 stations (140 Inflow Forecast Stations + 200 Level Forecast Stations) as per Standard Operating Procedure. CWC maintains 30 Flood Forecasting stations in Assam which are level forecasting stations in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Besides this, there are 116 Hydrological Observation stations from which hydro-meteorological data is collected in Assam. In the last ten years a total of 21293 forecasts were issued in Assam.

CWC also issues inflow forecasts to identified reservoirs for proper reservoir regulation. CWC prepares 7-day advisory flood forecasts through basin-specific mathematical models using India Meteorological Department (IMD) weather forecast products and near real time satellite rainfall estimates. These flood advisories are disseminated to stakeholders through web portals and other modes.

The damages due to heavy rain and floods are compiled by CWC after receipt of confirmation from respective States/Union Territories. The CWC publication (2024) Annual Flood Damage Data (1953-2022) is available at <https://cwc.gov.in/sites/default/files/report-flood-damage-statistics.pdf>.

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 informed by Government of Assam, Flood Early Warning System implemented by Assam State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration of North Eastern Space Applications Centre issue early warning (24 to 48 hours advance) to the districts. Besides, network of District Emergency Operation Centres and State Emergency Operation Centres are used to disseminate all early warnings issued by the central agencies like CWC, IMD, etc. Thematic meetings with various stakeholders are conducted to ensure flood preparedness by the Government every year before the flood season. Besides, flood preparedness of the districts is assessed through Flood Preparedness score cards.

The Government of India has constituted the Brahmaputra Board in 1980 with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra Valley and matters connected therewith.

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.
