

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *235

ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

FORMATION OF INDO- BHUTAN RIVER COMMISSION

*235. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to form an Indo-Bhutan River Commission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *235 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “FORMATION OF INDO- BHUTAN RIVER COMMISSION”

(a) to (c) No. There is no such proposal under consideration to form an Indo-Bhutan River Commission.

The primary concern for India on trans-border rivers flowing from Bhutan and entering the States of Assam and West Bengal are recurring floods and erosion in the border areas and the adjoining plains in India. Accordingly, both the countries have entered into bilateral cooperation on flood related issues, which consist of a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) & a Joint Technical Team (JTT) on flood management and a Joint Experts Team (JET) on flood forecasting. These expert groups meet at regular intervals to discuss issues related to trans-border rivers. The details of these are as below:

(i) Cooperation on Flood Forecasting:

A scheme titled “Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydro-meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers Common to India and Bhutan” under this Ministry has been in operation since 1992. At present, the network consists of 36 hydro-meteorological stations located in Bhutan, which are being maintained by the RGoB. These stations are located in the catchments of trans-border rivers Sankosh, Manas, Raidak, Torsa, Jaldhaka, etc. and their tributaries. Out of these 36 stations, GoI provides funds for the operation and maintenance of 27 stations. The data received from these 36 stations is utilized in India by Central Water Commission for formulating flood forecast during flood season.

A Joint Experts Team (JET) consisting of senior officials from GoI and RGoB continuously reviews the progress and other requirements of this network. So far, JET has met 38 times alternately in India and Bhutan since its reconstitution in 1992 and the last JET meeting i.e. 38th meeting was held at Mandarmani, West Bengal during 10-11 December, 2024.

(ii) Cooperation on Flood Management:

A Joint Group of Experts (JGE) consisting of senior officials from Government of India, respective State Governments and RGoB has been constituted in 2004 to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Governments, appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures. Eleven meetings of JGE have been held so far, with the last meeting held during 14-15 May, 2025 at Paro, Bhutan.

Further, in accordance with the decision taken during the first meeting of JGE, a Joint Technical Team (JTT) has also been constituted to assess the field situation and provide technical support to JGE on flood management. Eight meetings of JTT have been held so far, with the 8th meeting held during 18-20 November, 2024 at Chalsa, West Bengal.
