

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *259

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

CHANGE IN THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE GANGA RIVER

*259. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh has changed the morphology of the river Ganga and have affected lakhs of people in the State of West Bengal due to river erosion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures that have been adopted to combat the erosion?

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. *259 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “CHANGE IN THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE GANGA RIVER”

(a) & (b) Erosion & Deposition are natural geomorphic processes which happen in all alluvial reaches of rivers like Ganga. This is caused by various natural geological, geo-morphological, hydrologic, climatic, factors like floods, inflow of sediment from the drainage basin, heavy rainfall and anthropogenic activities etc. They define the river morphology which continues to change over time. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried & silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. There is no conclusive evidence that sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh has changed the morphology of the river Ganga in West Bengal.

(c) 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. Government of India had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to river management, flood control, 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 2020-21 and further extended up to 2026. Central Assistance of Rs. 1289.89 Crore has been released to Govt. of West Bengal under FMBAP Scheme since inception.

Eighteen flood management projects in the State of West Bengal have been included for funding under FMP component of FMBAP, out of which fifteen projects have been completed which have provided protection to 1.034 Lakh Ha of land & benefited population of 24.94 Lakh. Three flood management projects on river Ganga in West Bengal with an estimated cost of Rs. 66.78 Crore have been included under FMP component of FMBAP Scheme and central assistance amounting to Rs. 41.42 Crore has been released.

Further, as per the request of Govt. of West Bengal, a Committee was constituted by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for conducting a Joint detailed technical study to formulate an integrated plan to combat threat of erosion posed by Ganga-Padma river system in West Bengal. The Report of the Committee has been shared with State Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand and other stakeholders.

The Committee in its Report, based on the data of 1988-2023, has indicated erosion of 10244 hectares and deposition of 12411 hectares along the Ganga-Padma river system mainly in the West Bengal. Accordingly, critical reaches have been identified and mitigation measures have been suggested for implementation by State Government.

It is to further mention that, Farakka Barrage Project (FBP), a Subordinate Organisation under Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation undertakes river bank protection/anti-erosion works in critical reaches in its jurisdiction (upto 12.5 km in the upstream and 6.9 km in the downstream of Farakka Barrage), as per the recommendations of Technical Advisory Committee of FBP, necessitated for the safety and security of the Farakka Barrage and its appurtenant structures. FBP has undertaken Rs. 35.32 Crores of river bank protection/anti-erosion works in its jurisdiction during last five years. These anti-erosion works also provide a reasonable degree of protection from floods to the local people and their livelihood.
