

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *83

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

RECURRING FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR

83. SHRI A. D. SINGH

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

- (a) the main reasons for the recurring floods in North Bihar;
- (b) whether Government has identified both short-term and long-term solutions to mitigate the impact of these floods;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including infrastructure and river management plans;
- (d) the extent of coordination and agreement with Nepal regarding flood control and river water management; and
- (e) the measures undertaken to provide relief and rehabilitation to flood-affected people in the State?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *83 TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “RECURRING FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR”

(a) 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.

(b) & (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 promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

Integrated flood management 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, Union Government had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plans for providing central assistance to States for works related to 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 has further been extended with total outlay of Rs. 4,100 crore during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

In Bihar total 47 flood management projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 1818.05 Crore were included during XI and XII plan under Flood Management Programme (FMP). One project with an estimated cost of Rs. 48.44 Cr has been included under FMBAP in 2021-22. The total central assistance released to State of Bihar under Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) since XI plan and last 5 years is **Rs. 1656.55 Crore** and Rs. 303.84 Crore respectively. 43 number of completed projects in the State of Bihar under FMP component of FMBAP have given protection to an area of around 28.84 lakh ha and protected to a population of about 2.26 crore.

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 350 forecasting stations (200 river level forecast stations & 150 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. There are 43 (40 Level & 3 Inflow) flood forecasting stations in Bihar. 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 developed basin wise flood forecasting model based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling for 7 days advance flood forecast advisory at identified flood forecasting and inflow forecasting stations.

Flood Plain Zoning is an effective method to minimize the damages due to floods. In order to enable States to undertake scientific assessment of flood plains and its zoning, a technical guideline on Flood

Plain Zoning has been finalised by Ministry. Government of Bihar has declared the area between the embankments as flood plain zone for rivers where embankments are constructed on both banks. For the rivers with embankments constructed on only one bank, the area from the embankment to the river and upto 500m from the other bank has been declared as flood plain zone.

(d) The existing Indo-Nepal bilateral three tier mechanisms comprises 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. In this regard, a Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI) was constituted in 2003 with the mandate to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Sapta-kosi Multipurpose Project and Sun-kosi Kamla Diversion Multipurpose project. The JPO-SKSKI is functional since 2004.

Projects to minimize the risk of inundation and flood while also providing benefits on irrigation and power generation are on the bilateral agenda for discussion and cooperation with Nepal and following initiatives have already been taken:

- An India-Nepal Agreement on Kosi Project, signed in 1954 and amended in 1966, governs the bilateral cooperation in Kosi basin. This includes the building, operation and maintenance of Kosi barrage and associated structures.
- An India-Nepal Agreement on Gandak Project, signed in 1959 and amended in 1964, governs the cooperation in Gandak basin. This includes the building, operation and maintenance of Gandak barrage and associated structures.
- The river training works on Kamala, Bagmati and Lalbakeya rivers in Nepal portion have been completed with Indian grant assistance.

(e) The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. The Central Government provides requisite logistics and financial support to the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the event of 12 notified natural disasters which includes cyclone and flood, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance with approved items and norms of Government of India (GOI). However, in the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter- Ministerial Central Team (IMCT). Fund allocated and fund released to Government of Bihar from SDRF during 2025-26 is Rs 1836.00 Cr (Central Share- Rs 1376.80 Cr & State Share- Rs 459.20 Cr) and Rs 688.40 Cr (1st Installment) respectively.
