

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2799**

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

**NOURISHMENT OF THE SUNDARBANS DELTA**

2799. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the change in the morphology of the Ganga river has impeded the nourishment of the Sundarbans delta; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b)** Erosion and Deposition are natural geomorphic processes which happen in all alluvial reaches of rivers like Ganga, Hooghly, etc. This is caused by various natural geological, geo-morphological, hydrologic, climatic factors, 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.

Sunderbans delta is shared between India and Bangladesh and is situated on the lower end of the Gangetic West Bengal, which is traversed by mainly Hooghly River among others. The morphological changes in the Ganga/Padma and Bhagirathi/Hooghly River systems particularly downstream of Farakka, have reportedly impeded the nourishment of the Indian portion of Sundarbans in terms of sediment-laden fresh water from the uplands mainly during dry season.

Central Water Commission has carried out a morphological study of Hooghly River using Remote Sensing Techniques for the period 1972 - 2010, through IIT Kharagpur, indicating erosion and deposition of 9,165 and 9,293 hectares respectively on the left bank and erosion and deposition of 10,702 and 11,530 hectares respectively on right bank of Hooghly River.

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