

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *161

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

NATIONAL & STATE-LEVEL PLANS FOR RIVER AND STREAM DE-SILTING

*161. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has established any national policy, project or time-bound programme for regular de-silting of rivers, rivulets, drains and streams in flood-prone States, especially State of Punjab, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any central funding mechanism exists for de-silting of rivers and drainage channels under Flood Management Programme, River Rejuvenation Projects or catchment area improvement initiatives, if so, the amount sanctioned, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, specific project or timeline that has been set for de-silting, the reasons for delay in its formulation and whether Government plans to introduce a dedicated national desiltation mission to prevent future flooding in northern States?

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. *161 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “NATIONAL & STATE-LEVEL PLANS FOR RIVER AND STREAM DE-SILTING”

(a) A “National Framework on Sediment Management (NFSM), October 2022” has been published by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, for comprehensive and holistic management of sediment in rivers, stream including reservoirs sedimentation. It emphasises on reducing silt generation rather than silt removal. The NFSM is a guiding document for handling the issues of sediment management across the river basins of the country including Punjab, and to assist various stakeholders such as State Governments/UTs, Ministries, and Departments in formulating strategies and executing projects with due consideration for environmental and ecological factors. NFSM also includes the relevant references of existing guidelines/notifications issued by departments/ministries of central agencies.

Desilting of rivers is not considered a technically viable solution for flood control as it can marginally minimize the magnitude of floods and is effective only for a short period. Selective dredging in specific reaches such as tidal rivers, confluence points with narrow constrictions, etc., sometimes may have to be undertaken based upon local site conditions; however, the same should be backed by proper scientific study.

(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 also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas. Government of India is implementing "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)" for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, etc. A total Central Assistance of Rs 8737.66 Crore has been released to the States/UTs since the inception of the scheme including a Central Assistance of Rs 67.51 Crore to the State Govt. of Punjab.
