

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1675

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

FORMATION OF INDO-BHUTAN JOINT RIVER COMMISSION

1675. SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

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

- (a) whether Government of India has taken any steps for the formation of an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission to address the issues related to trans-boundary rivers between India and Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the present status of the proposal for constituting such a Commission; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of the recurring problems of floods, erosion and siltation caused by rivers originating in Bhutan and flowing into the Indian territory, particularly in the border districts of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) No, there is no such proposal under consideration to form an Indo-Bhutan Joint 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 in the downstream. Accordingly, both the countries have entered into bilateral cooperation on flood related issues, which are Joint Group of Experts (JGE) formed in 2004 & Joint Technical Team (JTT) in 2005 on flood management and Joint Experts Team (JET) in 1979 on flood forecasting. These expert groups meet at regular intervals to discuss issues related to trans-border rivers between the two countries.

(c) Yes, Many North Bank tributaries of Brahmaputra originate from Bhutan and pass through the narrow width of flood plains in North Bengal and Assam region including the border districts of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri of West Bengal. These rivers are flashy in nature & cause floods in the region.

The issues related to flood and erosion on these trans-border rivers between India and Bhutan are discussed in the bilateral meetings of different Expert Groups set up between the two countries. The JGE and JTT, consisting of senior officials from Govt of India (GoI) and Royal Govt of Bhutan (RGoB) are mandated 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. Similarly, JET consisting of senior officials from GoI and RGoB continuously reviews the progress and other requirements of a network consisting 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 and the running and maintenance expenses for 27 out of these 36 stations, is funded by GoI.
