GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 78
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2026

FLOOD MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TAMIL NADU

78. DR. M. DHANAPAL:

Will the Minister of *Housing and Urban Affairs* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any review of urban flood management and storm-water infrastructure in Chennai and other major cities of the State of Tamil Nadu;
(b) the details of projects supported by the Central Government for flood mitigation, urban drainage improvement and water conservation;
(c) the progress achieved in integrating storm-water systems with groundwater recharge and water-body restoration initiatives;
(d) whether recurring urban flooding has revealed deficiencies in existing infrastructure; and
(e) the measures proposed to enhance climate resilience and flood preparedness in the State of Tamil Nadu, urban centres?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)

(a) to (e): Management of urban flooding falls under the purview of the State Governments and the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Urban Development Authorities, who are responsible for maintaining the drainage and sewerage system. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States to strengthen Urban Planning ecosystem.

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has published the following documents/advisory guidelines for improving urban drainage and flood management:

i. Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014

(https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/1813403503fbec280e7648c0ae692512.pdf) & (https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/dd392b7781e668614ae0446cfd114bc6.pdf)

ii. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Urban Flooding (https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/580e35ec9fae474aaa96bec087e76553.pdf)

iii. River Centric Urban Planning Guidelines in 2021 to enable cities in the development of conjunctive water management approaches including nature-based solution

(https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/eb2bdfc0d54766fbbc52e56fe77ca687.pdf)

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iv. Guidance Document on Creation of Rain Water Harvesting Parks (https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/b0b5705fe04d5c0c9c33187aeef85823.pdf)

v. Manual on Storm Water Drainage System (https://www.mohua.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/10/8a2456c722036d78c72a698898ef846d.pdf)

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in the year 2015, inter alia, has a component on storm water drainage, which involved construction and improvement of drains/ storm water drains in order to reduce and eliminate flooding and creating green spaces and parks. Under AMRUT, 838 Storm Water Drainage projects worth ₹3022.39 crore have been taken up by the States/Union Territories (UTs). The State of Tamil Nadu had not taken up any storm water drainage project under AMRUT.

Further, 2,522 green spaces and park projects worth ₹1,604.13 crore have been taken up by the States/UTs under AMRUT and 5,400 acres of permeable green space area have been developed through these projects. In Tamil Nadu, the State has taken up 409 park projects worth ₹232.61 crore covering 337.66 acres of permeable green space.

Under AMRUT 2.0, projects for green spaces and parks and rejuvenation of water bodies are taken up by the States. Under AMRUT 2.0, proposals of the States/ UTs for 2,951 water body rejuvenation projects worth ₹6,003.34 crore covering around 1.21 lakh acres of area and 1,649 green spaces and park projects worth ₹1,087.12 crore covering around 12,750 acre have been approved. In Tamil Nadu, the State has taken up 467 water body rejuvenation projects worth ₹225.83 crore covering around 5136 acres of area and 561 green spaces and park projects worth ₹112.97 crore covering around 682 acres of area.

Besides, under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 sewerage and septage management projects have been undertaken, which inter alia help in evacuation of storm water. Under AMRUT, as updated by State/UTs on AMRUT portal, 888 sewerage/septage management projects have been grounded, which has led to creation of approx. 22,539 km length of sewer network. Under AMRUT 2.0, the State/UTs have taken up 605 Sewerage and Septage Management projects covering 40,021 KM of sewer network. In Tamil Nadu, the State has taken up 18 sewerage/ septage management projects and created 3019.83 km of sewer network under AMRUT and under AMRUT 2.0, 29 sewerage/ septage management projects have been approved covering 3667.96 km of sewer network.

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The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has informed that as per recommendations of the XV Finance Commission, an amount of ₹2,500 crore has been earmarked under National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) for urban flood risk mitigation during the period 2021–26. The allocation covers the seven cities in Phase I, namely Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad. Of this allocation, ₹500 crore each has been earmarked for Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, while ₹250 crore each has been earmarked for Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad, aimed at addressing urban flooding through coordinated urban planning and flood mitigation interventions.

In Tamil Nadu, the Urban Flood Risk Management Programme (UFRMP) targets Chennai, with a total of 5 mitigation measures approved by High-Level Committee (HLC) for a budget of ₹561.29 crore for the following components:

(i) Improvement of macro drains and water bodies (42 projects under 5 Works) - ₹189.27 Cr
(ii) Storm water drain construction across four basins— Cooum, Adyar, Kosasthalaiyar, Kovalam (10 Projects in different locations) - ₹232.35 Cr
(iii) Sponge city parks and eco-infiltration tanks (4 projects in different locations)-₹34.14 Cr
(iv) Restoration of 8 water bodies (8 projects in different locations) - ₹73.52 Cr
(v) SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) installation for remote regulator/sluice operation (1 project) - ₹32.00 Cr

The project proposals submitted by the City were based on the V Thiruppugazh committee setup by the State which states that the Kosasthalaiyar sub-basin in Chennai faces frequent flooding due to inadequate drain capacity and this directly links to the recurring floods to a capacity deficiency in the macro drainage system. Deficiencies such as inadequate drain capacity, encroachment on existing natural drains and water bodies and dense settlements in low-lying areas were noted.

NDMA has also informed that the components taken up by the Greater Chennai corporation as part of their urban flood mitigation under the NDMF are intended to strengthen the urban climate preparedness by targeting flood mitigation, water scarcity, and climate-resilient water management. Improving macro drains and constructing integrated stormwater networks in flood hotspots utilize hydraulic modelling to prevent severe urban water stagnation during extreme precipitation events. The restoration of major water bodies paired with green belt formations and the development of "Sponge Parks" with blue-green infrastructure leverage nature-based solutions to enhance natural drainage, control urban runoff, and facilitate critical groundwater recharge.

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