

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 890

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

FARAKKA BARRAGE, GATE REGULATION AND EROSION IMPACT

890 Shri BISWAJIT SINHA (RAHUL SINHA):

Will the Minister of Jal Shakti be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee under Jal Shakti Ministry reviewed the gate operation mechanism of Farakka barrage and its impact on upstream and downstream erosion;
- (b) whether any modification to the existing gate regulation schedule has been recommended;
- (c) whether the proposed NHAI bridge downstream of Farakka is expected to increase pond levels by 10–12 cm during peak floods; and
- (d) whether periodic five-year scientific modelling studies have been institutionalised as recommended in the report?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) A Committee constituted under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in its Report submitted in September 2024, reviewed the gate operation mechanism of the Farakka Barrage and found it to be functioning satisfactorily. The Committee further recommended that, if required, physical model studies at the Central Water and Power Research Station (CW&PRS) may be utilised to review the gate operation schedule.

(c) As per the Report of the Committee, one-dimensional hydro-dynamic simulations considering the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) bridge in the downstream of the Farakka Barrage indicate that the simulated pond level at the Farakka Barrage is approximately 10-12 cm higher for the peak discharge corresponding to a 100-year return period.

(d) The Committee has recommended that suitable scientific studies be undertaken at intervals of every five years to monitor river dynamics and assess the performance of the existing as well as proposed structures, considering the sensitivity of the river reach. As the aforesaid Report of the Committee was received in September 2024, therefore the subsequent scientific study is not due as of now.
