

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 98

ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN THE GANGA AND KOSI RIVER BASINS OF BIHAR

98. Shri AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken a fresh assessment of recurring floods in the Ganga, Kosi, Gandak and Bagmati river basins affecting large parts of the State of Bihar during the current monsoon season;
- (b) whether updated hydrological models and real-time data-sharing mechanisms with neighbouring countries have improved flood forecasting in the State;
- (c) the measures taken to strengthen embankment safety, reservoir coordination and basin-level flood management; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to formulate a long-term integrated river basin strategy to minimise recurring flood damage in the State of Bihar?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) As per the report of the Central Water Commission (CWC) on “Assessment of Area Affected Due to Floods in India”, based on satellite imageries data from 1986 to 2022, the total flood-affected areas in India has been assessed as 21.213 million hectares (**Mha**), and area protected through various flood management measures taken by the Central and the State Governments is 20.538 Mha. The total flood-affected areas in the Ganga Basin, including Kosi, Gandak and Bagmati rivers in the Indian portion, is 11.409 Mha.

(b) CWC is currently providing 7 days advisory flood forecasts based on mathematical modelling for major river basins of the country. The system uses basin level rainfall data covering areas in neighbouring countries. In addition, the Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, has also developed models for rivers in North Bihar and is using the outputs of these models, along with inputs from CWC and other sources, for informed decision-making. Integration of real-time hydrological data from the Nepal catchment areas of the North Bihar river basins has significantly strengthened the system by improving forecast accuracy and lead time.

(c) & (d) Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by the concerned State Governments as per their priorities. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance as well as promotional financial assistance for the management of floods in

critical areas. The Union Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (**FMBAP**), to provide central assistance to States for works related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, etc. during the period 2021-26.

To facilitate coordinated management of flood-related incidents and integrated reservoir operations at the basin level, Flood Crisis Management Teams (**FCMTs**) have been constituted for major reservoirs across the country. These serve as multi-agency coordination platforms to ensure effective reservoir regulation, timely dissemination of flood forecasts and warnings, and coordinated decision-making during flood events. Each FCMT comprises representatives from the CWC, Dam Authorities, State Water Resources Departments, State Dam Safety Organizations, State Disaster Management Authorities, National Dam Safety Authority and other concerned agencies.

Further, the Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared Comprehensive Master Plans for flood management for 23 river systems of the Ganga Basin and circulated to the concerned States.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has continuously impressed upon the States the need to adopt flood plain zoning approach as a non-structural measure of flood management in the country to minimise recurring flood damages. In order to enable States to undertake scientific assessment of flood plains and its zoning, a technical guideline on Flood Plain Zoning have been prepared and circulated to the States/UTs in August, 2025 by Ministry of Jal Shakti.
