

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
 RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4068
 ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017

FLOOD PRONE AREAS

†4068. SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Northern Bihar and Bengal get affected due to floods during the monsoon season every year;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the flood prone areas;
- (d) if so, the names of such areas and the details of the loss of life, property and livestock reported on an average every year in these areas; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Flooding in these areas is attributed to high rainfall in the catchment, rapid river flow from steep mountainous regions of Nepal & Bhutan, flat river slopes in India, lack of flood storage structures on rivers, change of river course due to siltation & encroachment of flood plains etc. Most of Uttar Pradesh & Bihar is drained by trans-boundary Rivers like Ghaghara, Rapti, Gandak, Kosi & Mahananda from Nepal. Similarly, rivers like Mahananda, Teesta, Torsa, Raidak etc. cause floods in North Bengal.

(c) The flood affected area compiled from States by the Working Group on Flood Management and Region Specific Issues for XII plan is 49.815 mHa. As per the Working Group report, total flood affected area in Bihar, UP & West Bengal is about 15.406 mHa.

(d) CWC compiles flood damage data provided by the States/UTs at national level. This data is available for the period 1953-2016. From this, average flood damage data for Bihar, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal is as under –

Damage due to Floods	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal
Avg. Area Affected (in Mha)	4.26	1.65	0.79
Avg. Population Affected (in Million)	29.99	6.47	4.07
Avg. Damage to Crops (in Mha)	2.24	0.98	0.31
Avg. Damage to Crops (in Rs Crore)	768.38	134.54	343.57
Avg. Damage to Houses (Nos.)	1398484	224664	303715
Avg. Damage to Houses (in Rs Crore)	831.45	35.12	219.04
Avg. Cattle lost (Nos.)	10105	1433	12307
Avg. Human Lives lost (Nos.)	1287	293	187
Avg. Damage to Public Utilities (Rs. Crore)	1035.16	143.72	184.42

(e) Different measures have been adopted to reduce the flood losses and protect the flood plains. These include non-structural and structural measures.

Flood forecasting is the most cost-effective non-structural measure of flood management carried out by CWC on interstate rivers covering 22 States/Union Territories & National Capital Territory of Delhi through a network of 221 forecasting stations. Flood forecasting & Early Warning system based on hydro-meteorological data of rivers flowing from Nepal to India is in place. There is a bilateral arrangement with Nepal & Bhutan for transmission of hydro-meteorological data of sites in Nepal & Bhutan to India for generation of flood forecast in India. River level flood forecasts are issued at 34 sites in Bihar, 38 sites in UP & 11 sites in West Bengal while inflow forecasts for dams/ barrages are issued for 2 sites in UP & 3 sites in WB and these alerts are shared with disaster managers at local level to take mitigating measures to save lives.

The management of floods due to these trans-boundary rivers has been a concern. Government of India has been in continuous dialogue with the Government of Nepal for construction of dams on these rivers for mutual benefit of the two countries which includes flood control. Broad outcome of the dialogue mechanism are given below:

- i) Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) has been set up jointly by India and Nepal for execution, operation and maintenance of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Sarada. The draft final DPR of the project has been prepared by M/s WAPCOS Limited.
- ii) Survey and investigation including preparation of DPR of Sapta Kosi High Dam Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion scheme proposed in the Sapta Kosi basin in Nepal has been undertaken jointly by India and Nepal.

The subject of flood management being under the purview of the States, the schemes for flood control are formulated and implemented by concerned States 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.
