

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018

FLOOD AND EROSION IN ASSAM

2617. SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Assam including other State level organisations have requested the Union Government to declare “Flood and Erosion” in Assam as “National Disaster” at the earliest and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (b) whether the Union Government has chalked out any action plan so that the river Brahmaputra could be completely protected from soil erosion;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of alternative measures being considered by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The State Government of Assam had requested the Union Government to declare “Flood and Erosion” in Assam as ‘National Problem’. The Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that the existing guidelines of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), do not contemplate declaring of a calamity as a ‘National Calamity/ Disaster’. However, in the event of disaster of a ‘severe nature’, financial assistance towards the notified natural calamities including flood is met from the SDRF which is further supplemented from NDRF in accordance with the established procedure.

(b) to (d) The subject of flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. The flood management & anti-erosion schemes are planned, investigated and implemented by the State Governments with their own resources as per priority within the State. The Union Government renders technical guidance and promotional financial assistance to States.

The Government of India had launched Flood Management Programme (FMP) in XI Plan which was continued during XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood control, river management, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing, restoration of damaged flood management works, anti-sea erosion, catchment area treatment, etc.

In the State of Assam, a total of 141 projects costing Rs.2383.11 crore were approved and included under FMP. During XI Plan, 100 projects with an estimated cost of Rs.996.14 crore were approved while during XII Plan, 41 projects with an estimated cost of Rs.1386.97 crore were approved. Central Assistance amounting to Rs.748.86 crore was released during XI Plan and Rs. 64.89 crore during XII Plan. Further a Central Assistance of Rs.245.49 crore has also been released during year 2017-18 to State Government of Assam. Since start of XI Plan, total Central Assistance released to State Government of Assam under FMP is Rs.1059.24 crore until 31-Mar-18.

A High Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog has been constituted by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region on October 4, 2017 for proper management of water resources of the North Eastern Region. The Brahmaputra Board was constituted with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra Valley and matters connected therewith. The Brahmaputra Board advises the North-Eastern States on water resources development matters including flood management. Brahmaputra Board has prepared 57 Master Plans suggesting appropriate measures for water resources development and flood control.

As a non-structure measure, Flood Forecasting activities are being carried out in Assam to mitigate the losses of life and properties due to flood by Central Water Commission (CWC). There are 29 flood forecasting stations in Assam and Flood Bulletins are issued on daily basis by CWC which are communicated to all stakeholders including State & District Administration, Elected Representatives, SDMA, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Assam and all concerned.
