

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2535
ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

IMPACT OF FLOODS

2535. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the strange phenomenon in Kerala where the rivers which were overflowing during the days of the flood are now getting dried up and their water levels have decreased abnormally;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the floods in the topography and river bodies of Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide any long term solution to the issues of surface soil erosion along with related casualties at riverbed and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) As informed by State Government of Kerala, the preliminary observation after the heavy floods, in the absence of any scientific study is that the water level in some rivers have receded drastically, and sediments/ sands were deposited in the river itself and caused hindrance to the smooth flow in the river.

Central Water Commission has analysed the monthly monsoon flows of two Hydrological Observation (H.O.) sites on the West flowing rivers namely Neeleswaram H.O. site on river Periyar, Arangaly H.O. site on river Chalakudy for the period 2013 to 2018. It is seen that the flows in general, have an increasing trend from June to August and thereafter a falling trend. In the year 2018, while the trend is similar, the monthly flows during July-August were significantly higher.

(c) & (d) The preliminary assessment conducted by the Irrigation Department, Government of Kerala reveals that the topography of the land adjacent to rivers which were overflowing in the flood lost its topsoil and in some areas, the adjacent lands were totally washed away and river itself took a new course. As informed by State Government of Kerala, Haritha Keralam Mission in association with Kerala State Remote Sensing Agency has initiated a study on the morphological changes of the river bed.
