

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2593
ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

REJUVENATION OF RIVERS

2593. ADV. JOICE GEORGE

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/assessment of water resources in Kerala after recent floods and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed any unusual event/phenomenon across rivers/streams across the State after floods;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to allocate funds for rejuvenation of rivers/streams especially river bank protection where heavy damages occurred during recent floods; and
- (e) 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) After the recent floods of August, 2018, a study on the hydrological processes of the flood has been carried out by Central Water Commission (CWC). As per the study, Kerala experienced an abnormally high rainfall from 1 June, 2018 to 19 August, 2018. As per IMD data, Kerala received 2346.6 mm of rainfall from 1 June, 2018 to 19 August, 2018 in contrast to an expected 1649.5 mm of rainfall. This rainfall was about 42% above the normal. Further, the rainfall over Kerala during 1st to 19th of August was 164% above normal. Due to heavy rainfall, the first onset of flooding occurred towards the end of July. A severe spell of rainfall was experienced at several places on the 8th and 9th of August, 2018. Another severe spell of rainfall started from the 14th of August and continued till the 19th of August, resulting in disastrous flooding in 13 out of 14 districts.

(b) & (c) As informed by State Government of Kerala, after the heavy floods, the preliminary observation 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.

(d) & (e) 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 supplements the efforts of the States by way of technical guidance and promotional financial assistance to the States in critical areas. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is providing Central Assistance to four flood management works in Kuttanad region of Kerala under Flood Management Programme.

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has informed that it is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement of identified stretches of various rivers through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)” for implementation of projects on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Government. Under NRCP, a project for pollution abatement of river Pamba at Pamba in Kerala has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 18.45 crore and a sewage treatment capacity of 4.50 million litre per day (MLD) has already been created.

After the recent floods of August, 2018, based on the memoranda submitted by the State Government of Kerala, Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs and deputed in two spells to assess the damages in the calamity affected areas. As per assessment made by Central Teams, 477 human lives were lost, 76,830 cattle lost and 6.54 lakh houses damaged and 0.94 lakh ha. cropped area have been reportedly affected due to floods/landslides in Kerala during the year 2018.

Ministry of Home Affairs has informed that in order to support the affected people of the State Government of Kerala, Government of India has released both the instalments of Central Share of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) amounting to Rs.192.60 crore and Rs.600.00 crore, released “on account” basis from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to Government of Kerala for immediate relief measures. This is in addition to the opening balance of Rs.287.08 crore available in the SDRF. After the visit of IMCT, the High Level Committee (HLC) approved the additional assistance from NDRF of Rs.3048.39 crore to State Government of Kerala.