

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2631**

ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

**FLOODS IN BANGALORE**

2631                      SHRI PRAJWAL REVANNA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is true that according to report on performance audit of management of storm water, Bangalore city 'is a victim of a paradoxical situation—urban flooding on one hand and depletion of ground water table levels, on the other' and the report also points out the mismanagement of drains and the BBMP's failure in protecting and maintaining drain infrastructure in the city and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that around 837 lakes lost their characteristics and presence in Bangalore metropolitan region as reported by EMPRI and if so, the reasons for disappearance of lakes in the city;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of Government about disparity in removal of encroachment of storm water drains/rajakaluve in Bangalore city and if so, the details of encroachment removed during the last one year; and
- (d) the latest National Green Tribunal (NGT) orders regarding safe or minimum distance from storm water drain or rajakaluve for residential activity?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the Municipal Corporation of Bangalore city has informed that combinations of factors like excessive rainfall in past few years, rapid urbanisation, encroachments, etc. is resulting in urban flooding of Bangalore. Besides above, demand for providing basic infrastructure like, urban transport, roads, layout formation, SEZ, IT Parks has increased considerably resulting in depletion of ground water and causing flooding. 859.90 km length of primary and secondary drains serves BBMP area for storm water drainage.

(b) The report titled "Inventorization of Water Bodies in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area" was prepared in March 2018 by the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Bengaluru. The report categorises 1,521 water bodies in Bengaluru Metropolitan Area under three categories

based on area: *Kere/Lake* (those with area more than 3 acre); *Katte/Gokatte* (1-3 acre); and, *Kunte* (less than 1 acre). According to the report, over the years, 102 of 497 *Keres*, 115 of 200 *Gokattes*, and 620 of 824 *Kuntes*, have fallen to disuse due to low water inflows and siltation owing to degradation of catchment area, eutrophication from sewage inflows, disposal of solid waste, lack of maintenance, etc.. In terms of area, so disused 837 water bodies constitute 11.17%. The remaining water bodies that constitute 88.83% area are used for fishing, cattle feeding, religious activities, washing, recreational activities etc.

(c) BBMP has informed that there is no disparity shown in removal of encroachment on storm water drains/rajakaluve in Bangalore city. The encroachment are being removed as soon as the relevant surveys are being conducted by Assistant Director of Land Records and demolition orders are issued by the concerned Tahasildar. The year-wise details of the encroachments identified and removed are at **Annexure**.

(d) An order by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding safe or minimum distance from storm water drain or rajakaluve for residential activity was issued in respect of Original Application No.222 of 2014 between Forward Foundation & Others v/s State of Karnataka & Others. However, later this order was overturned by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. BBMP has informed that the safe or minimum distance (buffer zone) from storm water drain or rajakaluve is being adhered to with respect to the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary drains as per the Revised Master Plan – 2015 which is 50 m, 25m and 15m respectively from the centre-line of the drain.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2631  
TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.12.2022 REGARDING “FLOODS IN  
BANGALORE”**

**Encroachments on Storm Water Drains**

Year	ENCROACHMENTS					Remarks
	Previously identified	Identified	Total	Removed	Balance	
2015-16	Nil	2,515	2,515	428	2,087	
2016-17	2,087	--	2,087	--	2,087	
2017-18	2,087	--	2,087	--	2,087	
2018-19	2,087	111	2,198	804	1,394	
2019-20	1,394	--	1,394	698	696	
2020-21	696	--	696	--	696	
2021-22	696	--	696	--	696	
2022-23	696	45	741	146	597	125 nos of court cases, shift in alignments ,etc..

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