

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3659

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

FLOODS IN PUNJAB

3659. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADA

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that one of the major reasons for floods in Punjab is due to excessive silting of river Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Ghaggar and Chakki;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the amount of gravel and sand available on the river beds is fifteen times the annual consumption of Punjab, as Stated in a report by Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Punjab in 2020;
- (d) whether it is also true that the Government had approved the allocation of 78 sites with 274.22 LMT (lakh metric tonnes) of sand/gravel to mining contractors in 2020;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the progress achieved so far; and
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate policies for systematic desilting of rivers in Punjab that contain approximately 7000 LMT of sediments and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) As informed by Government of Punjab, the main reason for the floods in Punjab during second week of July this year was incessant rainfall leading to heavy discharge in river Sutlej and river Ghaggar. On the specific dates of 09.07.2023 and 10.07.2023, the actual rainfall in Punjab state exceeded 50% of the average rainfall typically recorded for the entire month of July. This unusual volume of rain resulted in a discharge that surpassed 3 lakh cusecs in the River Sutlej and nearly 2 lakh cusecs in the River Ghaggar, which is categorized as a High Flood Level.

(c) to (e) Yes Madam. As per assessment done by Drainage Wing of Water Resources Department, Government of Punjab, the quantity of sand and gravel is 15 times the annual sand and gravel consumption of the State. The Government of Punjab had approved the allocation of 78 sites with 274.22 LMT (Lakh Metric Tonnes) of sand and gravel to mining contractors in the year 2020 and Agreements of 58 sites were executed with the mining contractors and 167.57 LMT quantity of sand and gravel was extracted till the completion of contracts.

(f) The Ministry of Jal Shakti has formulated “National Framework for Sediment Management (October, 2022)” for managing sediments in a holistic manner. It provides reference of all existing guidelines/policies dealing with the various aspects of the sediment management. The Framework will facilitate the concerned State Governments in planning strategies and implementation of projects giving due consideration to environment and ecology.
