

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3680
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023
FLOODS IN RIVER GANGA

† 3680. SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to prevent recurrent floods in the rivers of the country every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to construct embankments on the banks of Ganga river to prevent the annual widespread loss of crops of farmers living along the course of Ganga river;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not constructing embankments on Farrukhabad course of Ganga river in Uttar Pradesh as on date;
- (e) whether there is any proposal to construct embankment under Namami Gange Programme; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. Flood management and anti-erosion projects are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments from own resources as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas. Integrated flood approach aims at adopting judicious mix of structural and non-structural measures to provide a reasonable degree of protection against flood damages at economic cost.

To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, Ministry had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood management, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, etc. which subsequently continued as a component of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP) for the period from 2017-18 to 2000-21 and further extended up to September 2022 with limited outlay. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 7012.89 crores has been released to State Government/Union Territories under FMP component of this Programme since inception till March, 2023.

For Non structural measures, Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. Presently, CWC issues flood forecasts for 338 forecasting stations (200 river level forecast stations & 138 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. In order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people & take other remedial measures,

Central Water Commission (CWC) has developed basin wise flood forecasting model based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling for 5 days advance flood forecast advisory at its forecasting stations.

Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) and Brahmaputra Board under this Ministry have been mandated to prepare and periodically update comprehensive master plans for flood management in the Ganga basin and Brahmaputra & Barak basins respectively. These comprehensive master plans are shared with the concerned States for preparing specific schemes for implementation as per recommendations given therein.

In order to formulate the strategy for flood management works in the entire country and river management activities and works in the border areas, a Committee was constituted by NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and officials from various Departments/ Ministries of Government of India, Experts from the field and Principal Secretaries from States of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Punjab, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala were included as the members of this Committee.

The major recommendations of the above Committee in its Report of January, 2021 are-

- Continuous efforts to be made towards modernization in collection of hydro-meteorological data, flood forecast formulation and forecast dissemination. Further simplified data dissemination policy for use of data by the States particularly regarding trans-boundary rivers to be developed.
- Focus on scientific research in development of Model based system to forecast flash flood with sufficient lead time will provide a much-needed relief from menace of flash floods.
- Rule curve/ level for all reservoirs should be prepared & updated accounting change in rainfall trend and changing demand over the years due to rapid increase of population, urbanisation and industrialisation. Rule curves of major reservoirs, where flood cushion is not in-built, need to be reviewed to have some dynamic flood cushion for major part of the flood season.
- The long-term structural solution to floods lies in construction of large storage reservoirs which moderate flood peaks by adopting appropriate reservoir operation schedule.
- To get benefit of flood control, it is essential that tendencies like encroachment of natural detention basins are curbed and these basins are restored to their natural state as a measure for flood control.
- The projects for interlinking of rivers for diversion of flood water to water scarce areas may be taken up in a time bound manner.
- The reclamation of the existing wetlands/ natural depressions should be prohibited by state governments and they should formulate an action plan for using them for flood moderation.

The above recommendations of NITI Aayog Committee have accordingly been taken into consideration while preparing the proposal of continuation of FMBAP for the period 2021-26 and formulation of Policies at central level.

(c) to (f) The projects for flood management including construction of embankment are undertaken by the State Governments. Union Government currently has no plans to construct flood embankments either under Namami Gange Programme or any other scheme.
