GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1884 TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 14, 2023

FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN CITIES

NO. 1884. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing incidents of city flooding due to heavy rains and inadequate drainage system across the country which is causing considerable inconvenience to the public, damage to property and threats to public health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the cities most affected by such flooding events during the last five years;
- (c) the details of the strategies, action plans or policies formulated by the Ministry for improving urban drainage infrastructure, flood management and disaster response to prevent such flooding in the future;
- (d) whether the Ministry has plans to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Earth Sciences to develop integrated and sustainable solutions for flood management and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the timeline for the implementation of such strategies and action plans and the budget allocation made towards these initiatives?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)

(a) & (b): Urban development including urban planning being a State subject, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) only supplements the efforts of the States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in these sectors through its various flagship programs like Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Data pertaining to the causes of frequent flooding is not maintained under AMRUT Mission.

Under AMRUT Mission, storm water drainage is an admissible component which involves construction and improvement of drains/ storm water drains in order to reduce and eliminate flooding. So far, under Storm Water Drainage Sector, 739 projects worth ₹1,864 crore have been completed and 74 projects worth ₹1,135 crore are under implementation across 19 States/ Union Territories (UTs). This has resulted in elimination of 3,416 water logging points and another 372 water logging points are in progress of elimination.

Further, Under AMRUT 2.0, rejuvenation of water bodies and wells is one of main components. The admissible elements under this include harvesting the rainwater through storm water drains into water body (which is not receiving sewage/ effluent). So far, under AMRUT 2.0, 2135 water body rejuvenation projects worth ₹3,802 crore have been approved. Also, under AMRUT 16 water bodies projects were taken up worth ₹76.18 crore, 11 water bodies projects worth ₹70 crore have been completed.

(c): Management of urban flooding falls under purview of the State Governments and the Urban Local Bodies / Urban Development Authorities who are responsible for maintaining the drainage and sewerage system. However, MoHUA has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) on Urban Flooding in 2017 and published manual on Storm Water Drainage Systems, 2019 to assist the States/ Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders on the planning, design, operation and maintenance of Storm water drainage systems and to assist all States/ UTs to raise the level of preparedness in the event of urban flooding, and for emergency operations including rescue and restoration of services.

Further, under scheme for special assistance to States for capital investment (Part-III Urban Planning Reforms), States are being incentivized to undertake integration of Blue-green infrastructure/ drainage plan with their Master Plan. The North-Eastern/ Hilly States, are being incentivized to formulate risk informed master plans so as to map their vulnerable areas and undertake planning in sync with this mapping.

(d) & (e): Under AMRUT, projects have been selected, appraised, approved and implemented by the concerned States/ UTs/ ULBs as per their local conditions/ constraints and the requirement, which may result in reduction of flooding in their area. States/ UTs have mainly taken projects for new drainage network, rehabilitation & cleaning of existing drainage networks, covering of drains to protect from dumping of garbage, installation of pumps etc. to mitigate urban flooding. AMRUT Mission encourages sharing of good practices being carried out in any AMRUT city with all other Mission cities. Further, States/ UTs/ ULBs are free to adopt any suitable technique/ method based on their local conditions/ requirements.
