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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †2050

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

FLOODS IN BIHAR

†2050 SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any cognizance of the flood caused by excessive rainfall in the country particularly in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any long term measure has been taken by the Government in order to avoid huge loss likely to be caused by floods in future and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Member of Parliament of the flood affected areas would also be included in the proposed plan and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the flood management organisation of Central Water Commission (CWC) has formulated any scheme for Bihar; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU**)**

(a) to (d) Floods are natural calamity that the country faces almost every year, in varying degrees of magnitude. The occurrence of floods can be attributed to various factors, including wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake out-bursts. Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

Flood protection and flood management measures are broadly classified as under-

(i) Structural Measures - The structural measures for flood control which bring relief to the flood prone areas by reducing flood flows and thereby reducing the flood levels.

(ii) Non-Structural Measures- Facilitating timely evacuation of the people and shifting of their movable property to safer grounds by having advance warning of incoming flood through setting up a flood

forecasting system. Discouraging creation of valuable assets/settlement of the people in the areas subject to frequent flooding i.e. enforcing flood plain zoning regulation.

Integrated flood management 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 magement, Ministry had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood control, 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 200-21 and further extended up to September 2022 with limited outlay. In the State of Bihar, 47 projects were included for central assistance under FMP component of ongoing Flood Management and Border Area Programme (FMBAP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti. The 42 completed projects have given protection to an area of around 28.67 lakh ha and protected a population of about 22.34 million. Central Assistance amounting to the tune of Rs. 924.41 Crore has been released to the State of Bihar under FMP.

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 332 forecasting stations (199 river level forecast stations & 133 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. CWC has 43 flood forecasting (FF) stations (40 level forecasting stations and 3 inflow forecasting stations) and 121 gauge stations in the state of Bihar. 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 identified flood forecasting and inflow forecasting stations.

The National Water Policy (NWP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti has emphasized flood mitigation through structural & non-structural measures like creation of storage projects with dedicated flood storage, integrated operation of reservoirs with sound decision support system, rehabilitation of natural drainage system, Integrated farming systems and non-agricultural developments as the long term solution to the devastating floods occurring every year, etc. NWP highlights importance of flood forecasting for flood preparedness and expansion of flood forecast network extensively across the country and its modernization. Due consultations with all stakeholders included elected representatives were carried out during formulation of NWP.

(e) & (f) Inclusion of flood management projects from the various States for central funding under FMBAP is decided by an Inter-Ministerial Committee based upon the criticality and priority of project and availability of funds. However, techno-economic acceptance by Advisory Committee and thereafter, Investment clearance of project from DoWR, RD & GR are the prerequisites for consideration of project for central funding. During last five years 41 flood control projects from the State of Bihar have been accorded techno-economic clearance by the Advisory Committee of DoWR, RD & GR.

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