

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.11**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**Impact of Climate Change on Majuli Island**

\*11 SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the alarming rise in soil erosion severely impacting the island of Majuli;
- (b) whether the Government has any ongoing studies or monitoring programmes to assess the rate and severity of climate change impacts on Majuli, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address riverbank erosion and whether there are any ongoing projects for riverbank stabilization, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has a dedicated action plan for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on Majuli, if so, the details and timelines for implementation thereof;
- (e) whether the Government plans to allocate any specific funds for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects in Majuli, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government is exploring partnerships with International Organizations or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to access additional resources and expertise for climate action projects in Majuli, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 11 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.07.2024 RAISED BY SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

(a) to (f) The Central Water Commission has carried out morphological study of river Brahmaputra using remote sensing technique through Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. As part of the study, the decadal change in the total area of Majuli was estimated. It is found that although there is a decrease in the total area of Majuli from the base year i.e. 1973- 74 but in the recent decades, the total area of the Majuli almost remains the same. The study indicates that there exists a continuous process of erosion-deposition around the landmass.

The Government of India has constituted the Brahmaputra Board in 1980 with the objective of planning and integrated implementation of measures for control of floods and bank erosion in Brahmaputra Valley and matters connected therewith. As per the information provided by the Brahmaputra Board, it has executed flood mitigation and erosion protection works in Majuli Island under the four schemes since 2004 at a total cost of Rs. 183.27 crore and has further sanctioned a project at a cost of Rs. 233.57 crore in 2017, totaling to Rs. 416.84 crore. The soil erosion by river Brahmaputra has been substantially reduced after different measures implemented by the Brahmaputra Board since 2004.

The Government of Assam has outlined strategies to address riverbank erosion. One of the key strategies under the Disaster Management sector is to minimize soil erosion due to floods through appropriate construction regulations and vegetation measures.

The Government has launched the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) which provides the overarching policy framework for climate change mitigation and adaptation through its National Missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable agriculture, health, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge for climate change. NAPCC represents multipronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. Consistent with the objectives of NAPCC, States and Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCCs) to address their State specific action. As on date, 34 States and Union Territories including Assam, have prepared their SAPCCs.

As per the Assam SAPCC, Majuli is ranked moderately vulnerable to climate change impacts using the indicators of agriculture, water resources, forests, socio-economic development, energy, health and disaster management. To mitigate climate change and build the state's adaptation capacity, the Assam SAPCC includes 36 strategies.

Further, under the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation, the capacities of the Biodiversity Management Committees in Majuli are being strengthened for contributing towards the overall enhancement of participatory climate change adaptation.

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