

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 549

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

FLOODS IN WEST BENGAL

549. SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the State of West Bengal suffers from severe flood and erosion every year particularly in the district of Murshidabad;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to control erosion caused by river Ganga in Murshidabad district which is responsible for loss of life, property, live stocks every year;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating use of latest engineering techniques to control erosion and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government ever estimated the area of land lost to Ganga due to erosion in West Bengal particularly Murshidabad; and
- (e) the details of funds sanctioned, allocated and spent to control erosion of river Ganga in West Bengal during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The country faces the problem of flood and erosion in varying degrees in different parts including the state of West Bengal. Erosion, movement and deposition of sediment in river are natural regulating functions of a river. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried & silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. Soil erosion caused by heavy floods is a matter of concern as it leads to several associated problems like changes in river course, causing loss of land, etc.

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 also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas.

To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, Union Government had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plans 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 2020-21 and was further extended up to 2026 with limited outlay. There are two (2) completed and one (1) ongoing FMP projects benefiting Murshidabad district in West Bengal, which is detailed in **Annexure** .

Farakka Barrage Project situated in Murshidabad district, a subordinate organization under Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, undertakes river bank protection works in its jurisdiction, as per the recommendation of Technical Advisory Committee of Farakka Barrage Project, in critical reaches for the safety and security of the barrage and its appurtenant structures. During last five years, an expenditure of Rs 44.20 Crores has been incurred by Farakka Barrage Project for implementing such works.

As per the request of State Government of West Bengal, a Committee comprising members from the State Government of West Bengal and concerned Central Government Departments, under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission, has been constituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to undertake a joint detailed technical study for an integrated plan to combat the threat of erosion posed by Ganga-Padma river in the District of Malda, Murshidabad & Nadia in West Bengal.

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. CWC has one flood forecasting station in Murshidabad district on river Ganga. In order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people and take other remedial measures, CWC has developed seven days advanced advisory using latest technology like remote sensing and mathematical modelling.

The Government is contemplating use of latest engineering technologies to control erosion like use of geo bags, geo tube and bio engineering measures.

(d) CWC has carried out a morphological study of Ganga river using Remote Sensing Techniques for the period 1970 - 2010, through IIT Roorkee indicating erosion of 4289.32 hectares and deposition of 724 hectares in a reach of 50 km in the upstream of Farakka Barrage in Murshidabad District.

(e) From the State of West Bengal, 18 projects were included for central assistance under FMP component of ongoing Flood Management and Border Area Programme (FMBAP) of Ministry of Jal Shakti. Total 16 completed projects have given protection to an area of around 1.03 Lakh hectares and protected a population of about 2.49 million. Central assistance amounting to the tune of Rs. 1051.96 Crore has been released to the State of West Bengal under FMP. During last five years, Central Assistance of Rs 161.35 Crores has been released to the State of West Bengal under FMP component of FMBAP scheme.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 549 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.07.2024 REGARDING “FLOODS IN WEST BENGAL”.

FMP Project Status of Murshidabad district

Amount (in Rs.
Crore)

| S.N. | Name of the Project | River/ Tributary | Estimated Cost | CA released | Project Status |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Bank protection works along both banks of the river Bhagirathi at Sundarpur & Basantpur, Kazipara to Nabagram & Saharhati to Uttarasan outfall in the district Murshidabad & at Sanyalchar in the district Nadia, West Bengal-(WB-14) | Bhagirathi | 23.66 | 14.20 | Completed |
| 2. | Bank protection works along the right bank of river Ganga-Padma at Ichalipara, Moya, Galadarya, Paschim Beechpara (Bamnabad) in district Murshidabad and Bousmari in district Nadia, West Bengal -(WB-15) | Ganga- Padma | 28.13 | 19.095 | Completed |
| 3. | Improvement of embankment and ancillary works in Kandi and other adjoining areas of district of Murshidabad-(WB-18) | Kandi | 438.94 | 126.07 | Ongoing |
