

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1748**

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

**ACCUMULATION OF RIVER SILTS**

1748. SHRI JOYANTA BASUMATARY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that all rivers like Aie, Beki, Manas, Darrang, Sankosh etc. are full of silts due to flood flash and heavy rocks from foothills of Bhutan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is heavy scarcity of potable water in the said region due to huge accumulation of silts in the rivers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government to meet this challenge?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) Yes, a number of trans-border rivers flowing from Bhutan to India carry a significant quantity of river silts during flood season.
- (b) To discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both the Governments, appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures, a Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management headed by Commissioner (B&B), D/o WR, RD & GR was constituted between India and Bhutan in 2004. Ten meetings of JGE have been held so far.

A Joint Technical Team (JTT) on Flood Management between the two Countries was also constituted to assist JGE by carrying out field survey and site visits to some of the areas of concern referred to it by JGE. The JTT is presently carrying out studies related to assessment of sediment load and its impact on rivers and also propose remedial measures in respect of Manas, Dhansiri and Puthimari rivers entering from Bhutan into Assam, and Pugli, Rethi, and Sukriti rivers entering from Bhutan into West Bengal.

Further, a National Framework for Sediment Management (NFSM) has been notified in January, 2023 by DoWR, RD & GR, MoJS. Its emphasis is on reducing silt generation rather than silt removal and promote technological innovations & best practices. Further, it will provide overall guidance to States/UTs on various aspects of sediment management, handling issues of sediment management in integrated & scientific manner

and use of different approaches of sediment management in a river basin. It also includes relevant references of existing guidelines/notifications issued by departments/ministries of central agencies.

In addition, Assam Water Resources Department has taken up various schemes to tackle the flash flood due to heavy silt and rise in bed level of Aie, Beki, Manas, Darang and Sankosh rivers. The list of the schemes taken up by the Assam Water Resources Department since 2021-22 to 2024-25 is appended herewith at **Annexure**.

**(c) & (d)** ‘Water’ is a state subject and therefore, the primary responsibility for planning and implementing piped water supply schemes to provide tap water to rural households and management of water in urban areas lies with the respective State/UT government.

To ensure potable water supply to all rural households, since August 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States/UTs, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The aim of the Mission is to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household in adequate quantity (55 lpcd), of prescribed quality (BIS 10500) and on a regular and long-term basis. Government of India supplements the efforts of States/UTs by providing technical and financial assistance under JJM. Further, as informed by State Government of Assam, there are abundant ground and surface water sources; however, the challenge lies in ensuring the quality of water supplied through tap connections.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1748 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2024 REGARDING “ACCUMULATION OF RIVER SILTS”.**

**SCHEMES TAKEN BY WRD, ASSAM IN RIVERS AIE, MANAS, DARRANGA, BEKI, SANKOSH**

*(Rupees in Lakhs)*

SI No	HoA	Name of Division	Name of river	Name of Scheme	Estimated cost
1	SOPD-FDR 2021-22	Chirang	Aie	A/E measures to protect the village Debargaon from the erosion of river Aie on R/B.	49.98
2	NIDA	Bongaigaon	Aie	Protection of the D/S area of Bashbari bazar by pro-siltation measures against the oblique thrust of river Aie.	190.00
3	SOPD-FDR 2021-22	Barpeta	Manas	Protection of Bartari and its adjoining area from the erosion of river Manas.	331.92
5	NEC	Baska	Darranga	Anti-Erosion measures to protect B/B of river Darranga at different reaches.	495.73
6	World Bank aided AIRBMP	Barpeta&Baksa	Beki	Construction & Upgradation of river works along the Beki river to reduce river erosion risk	14308.00
7	World Bank aided AIRBMP	Barpeta&Baksa	Beki	Construction and upgrading of river works along the Beki River for reducing flood and river erosion risk (Emergency protection works at Chunbari, Maithabari, Nepalibasti, Biharibasti, Barobasti& U/S of GobardhanaSatra, Katajhar and Kaurjahi)	2973.00
8	FMBAP	Chirang	Aie	Protection of villages Durgapur, Dababeel, Chotonilibari, Debargaon, Dangaigaon, Bhirengaon, Bherbheri, Rowmari, Khagrabari, Sanyashiguri, Uttar Popragaon and Popragaon from the erosion of river Aie (R/B).	11594.40
9	SOPD-G-2023-24	Barpeta	Beki	Protection of Khudnabari area from the erosion of river Beki on its L/B.	177.58
10	SOPD-G-2023-24	Kokrajhar	Sonkosh	Anti-erosion measures to protect village Simlabari F V and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Sonkosh on L/B.	198.00
11	SOPD-G-2023-24	Kokrajhar	Sonkosh	A/E measures to protect at Bagdogra village and its adjoining areas from the erosion of river Sonkosh on its L/B.	199.00
12	SOPD-G-2023-24	Barpeta	Beki	Protection of Kurakur bridge approach at Showpur from the erosion of river Beki on its R/B.	172.00

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