

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2940

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

KOSHI RIVER IN BIHAR

†2940. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the new embankments built on both sides of the Koshi river in Bihar are adversely affecting the stability of the river even though its capacity to carry nine lakh cusecs of water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the release of excess water in Koshi river from Nepal causes devastating flood in the coastal areas of Koshi and in Madhepura, Saharsa and Khagaria districts and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that river bed of Koshi river is getting overflowed due to the high amount of sand and silt in the water released from Nepal during rainy season which is the main cause of floods; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government contemplates any scheme for desilting the river bed of Koshi to remove the recently deposited silt and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Kosi River barrage, along with its associated structures and levees/embankments, was originally designed to handle a peak discharge of 9.5 lakh cusecs. The construction of embankment on both sides of the Kosi river in Bihar are not adversely affecting the stability of the river.

(b) Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas of Kosi river, which mainly lie in Nepal, causes increased discharge in the river and is one of the main reason for floods in Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa, Katihar and Khagaria districts of the State of Bihar. Each year, this region faces flooding in varying degrees.

(c) & (d) Erosion and deposition of sediment in a river are natural regulating functions of a river. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried and silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. Dredging/desilting of rivers is not considered techno-economic feasible solution to mitigate floods as it can provide benefits marginally and is effective only for a short period. Selective dredging in specific reaches such as tidal rivers, confluence points with narrow constrictions, etc., sometimes may

have to be undertaken based upon local site conditions. However, the same should be backed by proper scientific model study.

The desilting measures including dredging in specific reaches of rivers for removal of drainage congestion, channel capacity improvement and navigation purpose are formulated and implemented by concerned States/agencies as per requirement. As of date, no proposal for cleaning of silt has been received from the State Govt.

For the comprehensive and holistic management of sediments in a holistic manner, the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, in extensive consultations with Central Government Ministries/ Departments/ State Governments/UTs have prepared the “National Framework for Sediment Management” (NFSM). Its emphasis is on reducing silt generation rather than silt removal and promote technological innovations & best practices. The framework lays emphasis on sediment management through integrated river basin management plan giving due consideration to environment and ecology.
