

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4091

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

RIVER BANK EROSION IN WEST BENGAL

4091. MD ABU TAHER KHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Murshidabad is perennially affected by floods and river bank erosion of the River Ganges and River Padma;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has a plan to recognize the said river bank erosion as a calamity and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance that floods come twice or thrice a year and go away but the erosion actually gobbles up large areas of cultivable land;
- (d) if so, the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has noticed that West Bengal has lost hectares of land due to land erosion and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the details of the funds provided/likely to be provided to prevent cultivable land from erosion in West Bengal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (f) The country faces the problem of flood and erosion in varying degrees in different parts including Murshidabad district in 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.

The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. The Central Government provides requisite logistics and financial support to the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the event of 12 notified natural disasters which includes flood, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance with approved norms of Government of India. However, in the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter- Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

Central Water Commission 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.

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.

Government of India had implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) during XI & XII Plan for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to river management, 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 further extended up to 2026. Total Central Assistance amounting to Rs 1051.96 Cr. has been released to the State of West Bengal since its inception under FMP component of FMBAP.
