

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1586

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

EFFECT OF DESTRUCTION OF TREES AND SOIL EROSION

1586. SHRI SUNIL BOSE

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken note of the fact that due to indiscriminate destruction of trees and soil erosion, the silting of rivers have increased and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it has seriously affected the sources of water and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made/being made by the Government to prevent large scale destruction of trees and soil erosion?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) 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 protection of forests and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection of forests and tree resources which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the State Forest Acts and Rules. The State Governments/UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees under the provisions made under these Acts/Rules. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change also supports the efforts of the State Governments/ UT Administrations for afforestation and conservation of forests through various schemes such as National Mission for Green India, Nagar Van Yojana and "Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)". Afforestation activities are also undertaken in a major way by utilizing the "Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA)".

Further, the Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. Government of India promotes and provides technical assistance, as well as promotional financial assistance for critical areas. 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 has further been extended during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

For the comprehensive and holistic management of sediments in river courses and water bodies, 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.
