

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3321

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

LAND EROSION ALONG RIVER GANGA'S BANKS IN WEST BENGAL

3321. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the land erosion along the river Ganga's banks in Malda, Murshidabad and Hooghly districts including the stretch of Balagarh-Guptipara in West Bengal and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any representation from local bodies and public representative for formulation of a comprehensive Master Plan to restrain/check the erosion on the river Ganga's banks in Balagarh and adjacent areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that a large number of villages have been wiped out from the map and the people have become homeless due to land erosion at the said stretch and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to formulate a comprehensive Master Plan to restrain/check land erosion on the river Ganga's banks in Hooghly including Balagarh-Guptipara stretch?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) 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. Different stretches along Ganga river in Malda, Murshidabad and Hooghly including the stretch of Balagarh-Guptipara in West Bengal face land erosion in varying degrees.

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.

Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) had prepared the Comprehensive Plan of the Main Ganga Stem in 1986 which was further updated in 2004 including Balagarh and allied Areas of district Hooghly, West Bengal, and communicated to the States, along with recommendations for the entire stretches, to be used in the preparation of the Detailed Project Reports for flood protection and anti-erosion works in the related areas.

After receiving a representation from Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Smt. Rachna Banerjee, Hooghly Parliamentary Constituency, a team from the GFCC and Government of West Bengal Officials visited Guptipara-Balagarah area on 16.01.2025 eroded by the Hooghly River in the presence of Hon'ble M.P. and District Administration officials to guide Government of West Bengal for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report.
