

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4541

ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

ROLE OF NATIONAL FLOOD COMMISSION

4541. SHRI PHANI BHUSAN CHOUDHURY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Flood Commission was set up in 1980 to address the growing concerns of flooding in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the recommendations provided till now from the National Flood Commission, specifically for Assam regarding every year devastating flood and erosion during the monsoon season;
- (c) whether there is any recommendation for permanent solution of flood and erosion in Assam; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Government of India had constituted "National Flood Commission" (Rashtriya Barh Ayog) in 1976 to review various aspects of the flood problem, and to evolve a comprehensive multi-disciplinary approach for tackling floods in the country, the report of which was submitted in 1980. The Commission made 207 recommendations. Summary of the important recommendations includes following the approach of comprehensive planning for water resources development and land utilization for optimum production on a long-term basis, preparation of master plans for water resources development and flood control for each river basin, set up of River Basin authorities, consideration of storage reservoirs as an important component in flood control and management, afforestation and soil conservation measures as a useful complement to flood control measures in the watersheds of rivers with heavy silt charge, mobilisation of people's participation, anti-erosion works for protection of towns, industrial areas, groups of thickly populated villages, railway lines and roads, where re-location is not possible on techno- economic grounds, use of modern techniques for collecting hydrological and meteorological data, for flood plain mapping and for flood forecasting.

The important suggestions made by the National Flood Commission regarding flood and erosion in Assam are given below:

- i. The proposals regarding the dams on the Dibang and the Subansiri in the Brahmaputra Valley and Tipaimukh on the Barak should be expedited. These will also help in arresting silt.

- ii. Before undertaking construction of new embankments, the physical characteristics of the rivers should be carefully examined and alternatives other than jacketing of the rivers should be seriously considered. It may be that in a number of locations “living with the floods” by way of providing raised villages and changing of cropping pattern, etc., may be the best solution.
- iii. Owing to the aggrading river beds being higher than the surrounding valleys, the flood damages, whenever they occur are heavy. It is advisable, therefore, to regulate future developments, especially in valleys which are highly prone to floods.
- iv. In order to minimize the erosion and breaches, the location of, and, spacing between, embankments, should, as far as possible, be in conformity with design requirements.
- v. Anti-erosion works are expensive. In case of danger to long lengths of embankments, it is usually more economical to adopt the alternative of retirement which may, therefore, be considered as a competitive alternative to anti-erosion works.
- vi. The total flow in the Brahmaputra River is more than what can be harnessed or utilized in the valley. An inter-basin transfer of water to the Ganga basin will help flood moderation in the Brahmaputra basin.
