

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3061

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

BREAKING OF KOSI WESTERN EMBANKMENT

†3061. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the breaking of the Kosi western embankment near Bhubhaul village of Kiratpur in Darbhanga Lok Sabha Constituency in the last week of September 2024 caused massive destruction in Kiratpur, Gauda Bauram and Ghanshyampur and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether excessive flow of water from Nepal into the Kosi River this year has caused over flowing and cracks in the dam and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether work relating to raising the height of the Kosi dam or strengthening of the same has not been carried out since more than over 61 years back when it was built and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to start elevation and strengthening work along with the construction of a two-lane road from Bheja on the Kosi western embankment (where country's largest bridge is being constructed on the Kosi river under the Bharat Mala project) to the last point and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Government of Bihar has informed that breach of Western Kosi Embankment (WKE) near Bhubhaul village of Kiratpur block in Darbhanga Lok Sabha Constituency (at Km 38.210 of WKE below Ghoghardiha) caused destruction in terms of damaging the embankment in a length of 220 meter which has incurred a cost of Rs. 40.2235 crore upon repairing work of the damaged portion.

(b) & (c) Kosi barrage was constructed in the year 1963 at Hanuman Nagar, Nepal at border of Bihar. The maximum observed flood discharge is 7.88 Lakh Cusec in 1968. The discharge recorded at Kosi Barrage on 29th September 2024 was 6.61 Lakh Cusec. At present, barrage is functioning properly. Increased discharge caused over-topping of embankment ultimately resulting into its breach.

As per the regulations published under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, every owner of specified dam, through their dam safety unit, shall undertake pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspection regularly. As

per the latest pre-monsoon inspection report of Kosi Barrage, submitted by State Dam Safety Organisation, Bihar in April 2025 "there are no severe obstructions in, upstream or downstream of intake/outlet structure (on the dam/barrage body) and some minor to moderate damages were observed in the conduit concrete, breast wall and gate slots (on the dam/barrage body)." As per the inspection report duly approved by the State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO), the barrage is categorized as Category-III (minor deficiencies requiring rectification during the year).

(d) National Highway Authority has informed that construction of 10.2 km long Kosi bridge from Bheja to Bakaur between Eastern to Western bund of River Kosi along with the strengthening of embankment in the approach towards Bheja side bund by stone Pitching has started.

One flood management project namely "Raising and strengthening of Eastern and Western Kosi Embankments" in Bihar with an estimated cost of Rs. 339.39 Crore was included for central funding under Flood Management Programme (FMP) of Ministry in XI plan and 97% of physical work has been completed.
