GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *84

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

COOPERATION ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

*84. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated or proposes to initiate Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) or similar institutional arrangements with neighbouring countries that share common upstream and downstream river systems with border States for cooperation on flood forecasting and early warning systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country and river-basin-wise including the mechanisms for realtime data sharing on rainfall, river discharge, dam releases and extreme weather events;

(c) whether these arrangements also cover cooperation on river pollution control, water quality monitoring and protection of aquatic and riparian ecosystems and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the role of State Governments, particularly border States in the negotiation, implementation and monitoring of such MoUs; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure transparency, reciprocity and reliability in data sharing so as to minimise flood-related loss of life and property, prevent transboundary pollution and promote sustainable river basin management?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *84 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "COOPERATION ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION"

(a) to (e) Government has existing bilateral institutional arrangements with neighbouring countries sharing common upstream and downstream river systems with border States, for cooperation on flood forecasting & early warning systems and other water resources related matters of mutual interests including river pollution control related matters among others. The country-wise details of such arrangements are given as under:

Bangladesh:

Since 1972, there are existing arrangements for transmission of agreed flood related data (water level, discharge and rainfall) for identified stations/ sites on Ganga, Brahmaputra, Barak, Manu, Gumti, Teesta, Jaldhaka, Torsa and Mahananda rivers to Bangladesh for the purpose of flood forecasting and warning in their territory. Point to point flood data of identified stations is also transmitted to Bangladesh by wireless besides e-mails. During the flood season of 2023, a WhatsApp group of concerned officers from India and Bangladesh has also been activated for transmitting the flood data related information timely in a seamless manner to Bangladesh. During the flood season of 2025, Flood Forecasting Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board, has also started providing (w.e.f. 06.10.2025), the flood related data of three rivers (Upper Atrai, Punarbhaba and Tangon which are flowing from Bangladesh to West Bengal) to the Central Flood Control Room of Irrigation & Waterways Department, Govt of West Bengal.

The other water resources related matter of mutual interest on common border/ trans-boundary rivers with Bangladesh which also include pollution control related matters, among others, are deliberated in the Technical Level Meetings (TLM) under the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission framework. The representatives of State Government of bordering States also take part in the bilateral discussions. The pollution issue in Titas River through C&B Khal and Janji River at Akhoura in Bangladesh and the pollution issue in Mathabhanga-Churni River in West Bengal due to effluents released from sugar mill located in Bangladesh has been deliberated in the TLM wherein, representatives of the concerned State Government of Tripura and West Bengal respectively participated.

Bhutan:

There is an existing Joint Expert Team (JET) for collection and transmission of hydro-meteorological data from 36 stations on trans-border rivers Puthimari, Pagladiya, Sankosh, Manas, Raidak, Torsa, Aie, Jaldhaka, etc. and their tributaries of Bhutan. The data is utilised in India for formulation of flood forecasts. A Joint Group of Experts (JGE), constituted in 2004, deliberates the matter related to flood management in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India. A Joint Technical Team (JTT) also exists to provide technical support to JGE on flood management. The representatives of State Government of West Bengal and Assam are members in the JGE and JTT.

These existing mechanism of bilateral cooperation has also deliberated the matter related to dolomite mining in the upstream reaches on trans-border rivers in Bhutan causing deterioration of river water quality, release of industrial effluents in different trans-border rivers, etc.

China:

An Expert-Level Mechanism (ELM) to discuss interaction and cooperation on provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers was set up between India and China in 2006. The ELM meetings are held alternately in India and China every year.

In the year 2002, the Government of India entered into an MoU with China for five years for transmitting hydrological information (Water Level, Discharge and Rainfall) of three stations on Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River during flood season by China to India. This MoU was further renewed in 2008, 2013 and 2018. Another MoU was also signed in April, 2005 having a provision of transmitting hydrological information (Water Level, Discharge and Rainfall) on the River Sutlej in flood season by China to India. The MoU was renewed in 2010 and 2015.

In addition, both the countries have signed another separate MoU on 'Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-Border Rivers' in 2013.

Nepal:

There is an existing Indo-Nepal bilateral three tier mechanisms comprising (i) Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) (ii) Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) and (iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) which address bilateral cooperation in water resources. Joint Committee on Inundation of Flood Management (JCIFM) implements the decisions of JSTC in inundation and flood management issues.

The hydro-meteorological data from stations in Nepal are obtained from the website of Department of Hydrology & Meteorology, Government of Nepal and is being used for flood forecasting activities in border States of India.

Besides, India Meteorological Department (IMD) is involved in institutional cooperation and data-sharing arrangements with neighbouring countries and regional bodies like South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF), SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) to support flood forecasting, early warning systems and broader hydro-meteorological cooperation, through both bilateral and multilateral frameworks and specific technical agreements.

Data collected are stored, managed, and made available in standardized formats that are compatible with global climate models and other environmental tools.

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