

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *304

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

SOIL EROSION CAUSED BY FLOODS IN BIHAR

†*304 SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to check soil erosion caused by large scale floods in major rivers like Mahananda, Ganga and Kosi in the State of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether large chunk of population living in the villages in Manihari, Amdabad, Burari, Jursela, Kadwa, Azamnagar, Pranpur blocks in Katihar district of Bihar are badly affected by large scale soil erosion every year caused due to floods in Mahananda, Ganga and Kosi rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any permanent solution is proposed by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *304 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023 REGARDING “SOIL EROSION CAUSED BY FLOODS IN BIHAR”.

(a) & (b) Erosion, movement and deposition of sediment in a river are natural regulating functions of a river. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried and silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. Soil erosion caused by heavy floods is a matter of concern as it leads to several associated problems like changes in river course, loss of land, etc. Flood management, including erosion control, falls within the purview of the States. 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. The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to assist the State Governments in effective flood management and erosion control.

Morphological studies using remote sensing technique have been carried out for major rivers like Brahmaputra, Ganga, Sharda, Rapti, Subansari, Krishna, Tungbhadra, Mahanadi, Mahananda, etc. These studies play an important role in understanding the nature of rivers in a comprehensive manner and provide assessment of decadal bank-line movement, erosion and deposition in different reaches in respect of base year, derivation of reach-wise morphological indices and identification of critical reaches. These studies have been shared with concerned State Governments and other stakeholders etc. for taking informed decision and future planning.

To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, 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. FMP continued as a component of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP) for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21 and was further extended up to September 2022 with limited outlay. In Bihar, 42 projects completed under FMP component of FMBAP have given protection to an area of around 28.67 lakh ha and protected a population of more than 2.2 crore.

(c) & (d) As per information received from State Government of Bihar, villages in Amdabad, Kadwa, Azamnagar and Pranpur blocks in Katihar district along river Mahananda, and Manihari, Burari and Kursela blocks in Katihar district along river Ganga, are affected by soil erosion caused due to floods. The State Government has reported that in the three year period of 2020 to 2022, 368 villages and 7.30 lakh people were affected due to flood in Katihar district in the year 2021 and 115 villages and 57,000 people were affected in the same district in the year 2022.

(e) Main reason for floods and erosion in the State of Bihar is on account of increased discharge in rivers of North Bihar like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Mahananda due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas which mainly lie in Nepal. The management of floods due to these rivers has been a concern. The related issues are discussed in the existing India-Nepal bilateral mechanisms comprising (i) Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR); (ii) Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC); (iii) Joint Committee on Gandak & Kosi Projects (JCKGP); and (iv) Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood management (JCIFM). Government of India is having regular dialogue with the Government of Nepal for construction of dams on these rivers for mutual benefit of the two countries which includes flood control.