

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
SOIL PROTECTION SCHEMES OF ASSAM
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Assam has assured that soil erosion protection schemes would be drawn up and implemented with the Central assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds released by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose alongwith areas covered under the said schemes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. However, the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visits to Assam and Bihar had announced setting up of a Task Force to look into the problem of recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States. Accordingly as a follow up of the above announcements, a 21-member Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission. Besides Experts from Assam, Arunchal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh, the Task Force includes the officials from National Hydro-electric Power Corporation, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Brahmaputra Board, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources. Two non official Experts have also been included in the Task Force.

The Terms of Reference for the Task Force include examination of the causes of the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, to review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion and to suggest short-term and long term measures for management of floods and erosion control. The Task Force has also been asked to examine related International dimensions and suggest future course of action as well as to suggest Institutional arrangements for tackling the problem and the source of funding for the future action plan. The Task Force has been directed to submit its final report by 31st December, 2004.