

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:574  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011  
FLOODS AND RESULTANT SOIL EROSION  
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**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government had constituted any task force to contain floods and soil erosion;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference of the task force;
- (c) whether the task force has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Yes sir. In August 2004, Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/ Erosion Control to look into the problem of recurring floods in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh with the following Terms of Reference:

- (i) To examine 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.
- (ii) To review the measures undertaken so far to combat floods and erosion.
- (iii) To suggest short-term and long-term measures for management of floods and erosion control.
- (iv) To examine related International dimensions and suggest future course of action.
- (v) To suggest institutional arrangements for tackling the problem.
- (vi) To suggest the source of funding for the future action plan.
- (vii) To examine any other related matter / issues.

(c) to (e) The Task Force submitted its report on 31.12.2004. In its report, the Task Force suggested Immediate, Short-Term and Long-Term measures for flood management. The important recommendations of Task Force included flood management schemes/works to be taken up, funding modalities, international dimension and institutional set up.

The Task Force recommended to take up a number of flood management schemes/ works amounting to a total of Rs 4982.10 crore which included works of Rs. 316.14 crore under immediate, works of Rs. 2030.15 crore under Short Term-I and works of Rs, 2635.81 crore as Short Term-II category, to be implemented during next six months, 2 years and 7 years respectively. The works of about Rs.500 Cr were approved in X Plan and for balance works, a scheme namely, Flood Management Programme` with an estimated cost of Rs.8000 Cr has been approved by Government of India to provide central assistance to State Governments during XI Plan period.

The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with the Government of Nepal on matters related to flood forecasting and construction of storage dams to check floods in Indian territory due to rivers flowing from Nepal. The Government of India is having cooperation with the Government of Bhutan in flood forecasting. Hydrological Information of the rivers Brahmaputra/ Yaluzangbu and Sutlej/ Langqen Zangbo during flood season are received from China and utilized for early warning in Indian territory.

The Government of India in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal extended the jurisdiction of Farakka Barrage between 40 km in the upstream and 80 km in the downstream of Farakka Barrage for speedy implementation of anti-erosion works on river Ganga. Jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board has been extended by the Government of India to cover the State of Sikkim and part of West Bengal falling under Brahmaputra Basin.