

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
FLOOD FROM RIVERS ORIGINATING FROM BHUTAN
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mass mining in the areas of adjoining rivers originating from Bhutan side causes flood and other natural calamity in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has taken up the issue with the Government of Bhutan; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A Joint Technical Team (JTT) between India and Bhutan inspected the rivers Rethi, Dimdima, Titi, Jainti and Pugli in Bhutan for assessment of sediment load and its impact in April 2005. The team had observed that there was unplanned sand and gravel mining in some of rivers which may be one of the causes of siltation of rivers in India leading to floods.

(c) & (d) The issue regarding unplanned sand and gravel mining was discussed in the 2nd meeting of Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management between the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) held at New Delhi on 26-27 February, 2008. In the meeting the Bhutanese side had intimated that necessary actions were initiated by RGoB.