

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1100

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

NATIONAL POLICY ON FLOOD CONTROL

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any National Policy regarding flood Control Management;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for recurring flood in many parts of the country and damage caused as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has constituted any Expert Committee to suggest ways and means to check recurring floods;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the effective strategy adopted by the Government to check flood and the success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No Sir. "National Policy on Flood Control" has not been formulated. However, the issues related to flood management are duly addressed in the National Water Policy 2002.

(c) to (f) Yes Sir. As per the report of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog constituted by Government of India in 1976 for looking into the reasons of floods and recommending measures to mitigate the floods, the floods are caused due to over spilling of water from the river banks due to excessive precipitation combined with inadequate channel capacity. This occurs mainly due to deforestation, lack of soil conservation and indiscriminate use of land for developmental works. Further, due to unprecedented floods of 2004 in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, a Task Force on Flood Management/ Erosion Control headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources on the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister to look into the problems of recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force observed that the frequent occurrence of floods can be attributed to wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate bank capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake outbursts. It recommended a number of flood management works under Immediate, Short Term-I Measures and Short Term-II Measures amounting to a total cost of Rs.4,982.10 crore for Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and other North-eastern states including Sikkim, to be completed in a time span of next 5 to 7 years.

(g) The Government of India set up a Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in 1972 for preparation of comprehensive master plans for flood control measures in Ganga basin States. Detailed Comprehensive Plans for all the 23 river systems constituting the Ganga basin had been prepared by GFCC and circulated to the concerned State Governments. Thereafter, Brahmaputra Board was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1980 to prepare comprehensive master plans for flood control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley. The Brahmaputra Board has prepared the Master Plans of the main stem of the Brahmaputra and Barak along with 52 major tributaries of the region.

In addition, Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January 2008, inter alia, provides for preparation of flood management plans at National, State and District levels covering all aspect of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments, as per their own priorities, out of their State plan funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. In order to provide additional financial support to the State Governments, the Government of India has also been assisting the flood prone States in flood management and anti- erosion works for critical reaches since the VIII Plan period, through centrally sponsored schemes. During XI plan, a state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 Cr. has been approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007 in order to provide financial assistance to the State Governments. A total of 308 proposals from 19 states with a total cost of Rs. 3033.58 crore have been included under FMP by an

Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance for providing central assistance to states and central assistance amounting to Rs. 833.96 crore has been released to states (including Rs. 83.85 crore for spilled over works of X Plan) upto 31.10.2009.

Besides, the Government of India is having continued dialogue with neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, China and Bhutan on matters related to flood forecasting and construction of storage dams to check floods in Indian territory due to rivers flowing from their territories.