

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:99
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
FLOOD CONTROL
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that devastating flood in many State of the country causes/is causing loss of hundreds of crores of rupees every year;
- (b) if so, whether any measures are being taken for the permanent solution of the flood problem in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) The subject of flood management falls within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the schemes of flood control are planned, investigated, formulated and executed by the concerned State Governments as per their own priorities. The role of the Union Government is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature.

Floods are natural phenomena and permanent or absolute immunity against floods is neither possible nor practical. The impacts of floods, however, can be mitigated to a certain extent. Besides the measures undertaken by the State Governments from time to time, the Union Government has also taken following measures in order to assist the State Governments in better management of floods in the country.

(i) The Central Water Commission (CWC) was set up in 1945 for furthering and promoting measures of flood management besides conservation and utilisation of water throughout the country. Presently, CWC has a dedicated Flood Management Organisation which undertakes the specialised activity of flood forecasting on major rivers and their tributaries in the country and advises the States on measures of effective flood management.

(ii) Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) was set up in 1972 to advise the Ganga Basin States on specific flood management measures. GFCC has prepared 23 master plans for implementation by the concerned States to address the flood problems in Ganga basin.

(iii) Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) was set up in 1976 which studied the entire gamut of floods in the country, assessed the area liable to floods in the country as 40 mha and recommended measures for flood management.

(iv) Brahmaputra Board was set up in 1980 by an Act of Parliament for carrying out survey & investigation and preparation of master plans in Brahmaputra Valley for control of floods, bank erosion and improvement of drainage. Accordingly, Brahmaputra Board has prepared 57 master plans for water resources management including flood management / erosion control in North Eastern Region.

(v) A National Water Policy was formulated in 2002 which laid emphasis on integrated flood management.

(vi) A Task Force on Flood Management/Erosion Control was set up in 2004 which recommended immediate, short term and long term measures of flood management/erosion control in North Eastern Region and Ganga Basin States.

(vii) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been set under DM Act of 2005 which supervises, advises and monitors the policy matters related to management of disasters including flood disaster.

(viii) The Government of India is also making continuous dialogue with the neighbouring countries for cooperation in effective flood management in India.