

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4821
ANSWERED ON 31.03.2022
AGREEMENT TO BUILD BRIDGES

†4821. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR YADAV

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Nepal to build dams over the rivers originating from Nepal;
- (b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and
- (c) if not, whether the Union Government proposes to sign any such agreement with the Government of Nepal with a view to safeguard North Bihar from catastrophic floods that occur every year and generate hydroelectricity and make use of water available in the said area for irrigation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (c) Government of India has been taking up issues related to India-Nepal cooperation in the water resources with Government of Nepal through bilateral mechanisms which include the Joint Committee on Kosi and Gandak Projects (JCKGP), Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) and the Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR).

Major outcomes in the field of bilateral water cooperation are -

- A "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River, including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project" was signed in February 1996. Under this Treaty, India and Nepal have agreed to implement the Pancheshwar Multi-purpose Project as an integrated project.
- A Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI) was constituted in 2004 with the mandate to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkoshi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme in Nepal.
- An India-Nepal Agreement on Kosi Project was signed in 1954 and amended in 1966, for building, operation and maintenance of Kosi barrage and associated structures. Further both countries signed an agreement on Gandak Project in 1959 and amended in 1964, for building, operation and maintenance of Gandak barrage and associated structures. Kosi barrage and Gandak barrage are already built and operational.
- Projects to minimize the risk of inundation while also providing benefits on irrigation and power generation are on the bilateral agenda of issues for discussion and cooperation with Nepal. These include, *inter-alia*, the river training works in Kamala, Bagmati and Lalbakeya rivers which have been completed with Indian assistance in form of grants.
