

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3164**

ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

**INDO-BHUTAN RIVER COMMISSION**

3164. SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL:

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to form an Indo-Bhutan River Commission, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the State Government of West Bengal would be included if such a commission is formed, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the members of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) on Flood Management and the Joint Experts Team (JET) on Flood Forecasting; and
- (d) the implementable action taken/activities undertaken by JTT, JET and the Joint Group of Experts (JGE)?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) No. There is no such proposal under consideration to form an Indo-Bhutan River Commission.

The primary concern for India on trans-border rivers flowing from Bhutan and entering the States of Assam and West Bengal are recurring floods and erosion in the border areas and in the downstream. Accordingly, both the countries have entered into bilateral cooperation on flood related issues, which are Joint Group of Experts (JGE) & Joint Technical Team (JTT) on flood management and Joint Experts Team (JET) on flood forecasting. These expert groups meet at regular intervals to discuss issues related to trans-border rivers between the two countries.

(b) The composition of bilateral expert groups between the two countries are decided in consultation with MEA and the respective State Governments. Both Govt. of Assam and Govt. of West Bengal are represented in the existing set-up of bilateral mechanism of JGE and JTT, which deal with activities related to assessment of the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Governments, appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures.

(c) The details of the members of the Joint Technical Team (JTT) (Indian side) on Flood Management are as below:

S.No.	Name & Designation	Remarks
1.	Chief Engineer, BBO, CWC, Guwahati	Team Leader
2.	Suptd. Engineer (Coord.), CWC, Guwahati	Member Secretary

3.	Representative of WRD, Govt. of Assam	Member
4.	Representative of I&WD, Govt. of West Bengal	Member
5.	Representative of Geological Survey of India (GSI), GoI	Member
6.	Representative of DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS, GoI	Member
7.	Representative of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GoI	Member (Optional)
8.	Suptd. Engineer, Investigation circle (IC), CWC, Gangtok	Member

The details of the members of the Joint Expert Team (JET) (Indian side) on Flood Management are as below:

S.No.	Name & Designation	Remarks
1.	Chief Engineer (T&BDBO), CWC, Kolkata	Team Leader
2.	Suptd. Engineer HO & Investigation Circle (HO&IC), CWC, Guwahati	Member
3.	Executive Engineer, Bhutan Investigation Division (BID), CWC, Phuentsholing, Bhutan	Member Secretary
4.	Representative of MEA, GoI	Member
5.	Representative of DoWR, RD&GR, MoJS, GoI	Member

(d) The implementable action taken by JTT, JET and the Joint Group of Experts (JGE) are outlined below:

Joint Group of Experts (JGE) consisting of senior officials from GoI and RGoB has been constituted in 2004 to discuss and assess the probable causes and effects of the recurring floods and erosion in the southern foothills of Bhutan and adjoining plains in India and recommend to both Governments, appropriate and mutually acceptable remedial measures. Eleven meetings of JGE have been held so far, with the last meeting held during 14-15 May 2025 at Paro, Bhutan. Further, in accordance with the decision taken during the first meeting of JGE, a Joint Technical Team (JTT) has also been constituted to assess the field situation and provide technical support to JGE on flood management. Eight meetings of JTT have been held so far, with the 8th meeting held during 18-20 November, 2024 at Chalsa, West Bengal. Based on site visits carried out by JTT, the river reaches vulnerable to erosion, sedimentation, and landslide prone areas on various trans-border rivers have been identified and remedial measures have been suggested by the Expert Groups, which have been implemented by Royal Govt. of Bhutan and Govt. of Assam / West Bengal.

Further, a scheme titled “Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydro-meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers Common to India and Bhutan” under this Ministry has been in operation since 1992. At present, the network consists of 36 hydro-meteorological stations located in Bhutan, which are being maintained by the RGoB. These stations are located in the catchments of trans-border rivers Puthimari, Pagladiya, Sankosh, Manas, Raidak, Torsa, Aie, Jaldhaka, etc. and their tributaries. Out of these 36 stations, GoI provides funds for the operation and maintenance of 27 stations. The data received from these 36 stations is utilized in India by Central Water Commission for formulating flood forecast during flood season. Joint Experts Team (JET) consisting of senior officials from GoI and RGoB continuously reviews the progress and other requirements of this network. So far, JET has met 39 times alternately in India and Bhutan since its reconstitution in 1992 and the last JET meeting i.e. 39<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at Paro, Bhutan during 8-9 October 2025.

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