

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2815
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any Flood Management Programme for those rivers which are linked with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and North Bengal; and

(b) if so, the specific proposals from Government of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in Tenth Plan and how many of them have been approved so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with the neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan in the field of development of water resources. Saptakosi High Dam Multipurpose Project & Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme has been agreed with Nepal to be taken up for field investigations, studies and preparation of Detailed Project Report for which a Joint Project Office is being setup in Nepal. The project will inter alia have flood control benefits in Bihar. In respect of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project located on river Mahakali (Sharda), the field investigations have been completed & the discussions are continuing with Nepal for finalisation of Detailed Project Report. The project inter alia will have incidental flood control benefits for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

A scheme on "flood forecasting and warning system on rivers common to India and Nepal" is in operation since 1989. In addition, a Standing Committee on Inundation problems is also functioning for dealing with the problems of Inundation in the vicinity of India and Nepal Border. A joint committee on Water Resources headed by Water Resources Secretaries of India and Nepal has also been setup to have interaction at higher level pertaining to the cooperation in the field of Water Resources, including implementation of existing agreements and understanding.

As regards Bhutan, a "Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydrometeorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers common to India and Bhutan" having 35 hydro meteorological stations located in Bhutan is in operation. The data received from these stations is utilised for formulating the flood forecasts in India.

In respect of Bangladesh, as a follow up of the unprecedented floods of September, 2000 which had affected Southwest Bengal & adjoining areas of Bangladesh, a Joint Task Force has been constituted for flood management in Ichhamati Basin for formulation of an Action Plan for tackling flood calamities jointly in future & to submit it for consideration of Joint Rivers Commission. The Committee has already held two meetings and visited the study areas both in Bangladesh & India and an action plan for completion of the studies has been drawn.

(b) Flood management / control being a State subject, formulation and execution of such schemes is within the purview of the State Governments. However, Government of India is assisting the State Governments in the matters relating to flood management on the rivers linked up with Nepal, Bhutan & Bangladesh. In this connection, a centrally sponsored scheme for raising, strengthening & extension of embankments on rivers Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Kamla & Khando, benefiting Bihar, with an outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been formulated for implementation in the 10th Plan. During 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 1.5 crore was released to the Government of Bihar under the above scheme. In this connection three schemes, two along the river Bagmati and one scheme for river Kamla were received in Ganga Flood Control Commission, which were examined and the observations on the same have been conveyed to the State Government, compliance on which is awaited.

In addition, the Government of India is also reimbursing full cost of the works incurred by the State Governments of Bihar & Uttar Pradesh for taking up maintenance of flood protection works in around Kosi & Gandak Projects in the Nepalese territory. These works are carried out every year after the monsoon on the recommendations of Kosi & Gandak High Level Committees. An amount of Rs. 35 crore has been provided for this scheme during the 10th Plan out of which an amount of Rs. 7.54 crore and Rs. 0.85 crore was reimbursed respectively to the Governments of Bihar & Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03.

As regards West Bengal for emergent flood protection works in the Eastern & Western sector on common border rivers since 1999-2000, Central Loan Assistance is being provided. However, no such scheme has been received from West Bengal so far during 10th Plan for central assistance.