

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5556

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005

FLOOD CONTROL

Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some rivers in the States are prone to flood every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy to make the country free from floods to avoid losses being caused by floods every year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has estimated the quantum of excess flood water; and
- (f) if so, the average quantum thereof and the areas where such water is likely to be utilized State- wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Some of the major rivers which are prone to floods are as under:

Floods in the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries affect the North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland & Tripura), Sikkim and Northern parts of West Bengal. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and parts of Uttaranchal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand are affected by Floods in the river Ganga and its tributaries. Floods in river Mahanadi and its tributaries affect the states of Chattisgarh & Orissa. Andhra Pradesh is prone to floods by river Krishna and Godavari.

(c) & (d) Although flood management is in the purview of the State Governments, Central Government has also been initiating actions in order to evolve broad policy on flood management. Raashtriya Barh Ayog, set up by the Government of India in 1976 to look into flood problem and suggest remedial measures, submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog which formed the framework for flood management strategy in the country were forwarded to the various State Governments for implementation. Several other expert committees were also constituted by the Government from time to time to study the problem relating to flood and its management, the recommendations of which were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation. Ganga Flood Control Commission for Ganga Basin States constituted in 1972 prepared Comprehensive Plans for Flood Management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board which started functioning at Guwahati in 1982 prepared Master Plans for Flood Management for Brahmaputra, Barak and its major tributaries. These plans were forwarded to concerned State Governments for implementation.

The National Water Policy-2002, inter alia provides the need for a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin, provision of adequate flood cushion in water storage projects, wherever feasible, to facilitate better flood management, increased emphasis on non- structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing for the minimization of losses and to reduce the recurring expenditure on flood relief, strict regulation of settlements and economic activity in the flood plain zones along with flood proofing and modernization of flood forecasting activities.

During 2004, the Government of India had constituted a Task Force for Flood Management/Erosion Control under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission with representatives of State Governments, various Central Ministries and experts as members to examine the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and neighboring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has inter alia recommended various short term and long term measures. The report of the Task Force has been circulated to various Ministries/State Governments.

(e) & (f) Information about average annual water overflows as flood is not available. However Central Water Commission operates 173 flood forecasting stations in the major river basins of the country. Danger level for each of these stations has been fixed. When the flow in the river crosses the danger level, it is likely to result in damages in the area.