

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3823
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004
SEA AND RIVER EROSION IN WEST BENGAL
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sea and river erosion are threatening the ecological balance in Sundarban region of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the step the Government propose to take to prevent the same; and
- (c) the total amount spent so far during the last three years and the amount earmarked for current financial year?

Answer

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

(a) As per information received from the government of West Bengal, certain reaches of river banks and sea coast in Sundarban region are critically affected due to erosion.

(b) & (c) Planning and implementation of anti-erosion works primarily rest with the concerned State Governments. Government of West Bengal submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 256.23 crore for beach protection and bank protection works in the tidal reaches of the river for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP). The proposal of Government of West Bengal includes critical reaches in Sundarban area of West Bengal. As the NCPP has been planned for seeking external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and submitted to the Planning Commission for its consideration and onward transmission to Department of Economic Affairs for identification of suitable external funding agencies.