

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2985
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
DEPOSITION OF SILT BY GANGA
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether River Ganga at Allahabad has been depositing heavy silt;
- (b) whether the main channel has swung away towards the low lands on Phaphamau side;
- (c) whether as a result of tangential flow towards the left bank, the main channel is liable to cause colossal loss of property, cut off rail and road communication from across Ganga and cause long term damages; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) As per the report of Ministry of Water Resources, a Technical Team comprising officers from Government of Uttar Pradesh, Ganga Flood Control Commission (Patna), Ministry of Railways and the Central Water Commission was constituted and visited the site in May, 2007 to study the matter relating to river Ganga changing its course at Allahabad. The Technical Team observed that river Ganga was shifting towards the Phaphamau side during the last few years. It was observed that about 1.5-2.0 kms. upstream of the road and railway bridges, some erosion has taken place.

The Team also observed that the approach to the road and railway bridges is quite protected as boulders placed there are dampening the river flow. The existing road leading to Phaphamau town constructed parallel to river Ganga is around 600 to 700 metres away from the river flow and provides protection to the town. To check the erosion and meandering of the river upstream of the bridges, some protection works were undertaken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. At present, there is no danger to the road and railway bridges or Phaphamau town from tangential flow.

The Team has recommended the need for

- (i) close monitoring of the flow pattern of the river during the current monsoon season,
- (ii) conducting a model study on the behavior of the river in the vicinity of the bridges, and
- (iii) carrying out morphological studies with remote sensing techniques within the 20 kms. reach of the river (10 kms. upstream and downstream of the bridges) by the State Government. The Ministry of Water Resources has already suggested to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to undertake the required studies and remedial measures.