

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:503
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
PLAN FOR FLOOD CONTROL
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has drawn up any action plan to permanently control floods in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 503 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 02.05.2005 REGARDING PLAN FOR FLOOD CONTROL

(a) & (b) Flood throughout the world cannot be fully controlled. It is to be managed to best of ability on technical merit of the problem from place to place. However, Flood Management being within the purview of States, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. UPA Government gave special emphasis on this issue in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Central Government, however, has also been initiating various measures for assisting the States in the management of floods. The Rashtriya 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.

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 neighbouring States, West Bengal, Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force has inter alia recommended taking up of reservoir projects as permanent / long term measures for flood management.

The Government of India have been taking effective steps in this direction. An agreement was reached with Nepal for survey and investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report for Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme for which a Joint Project Office has already been opened in Nepal in August, 2004. This project has flood control as one of the major benefits. Nepal has also agreed for undertaking the joint feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Project to ascertain likely constraints in implementation of these projects so that the same could be appropriately addressed.

As regards North – East, the Master Plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board have emphasized that the flood problem in the Brahmaputra Valley can be solved satisfactorily and enduringly only after construction of large storage dams in the basin and that too in the upper part of the basin. Keeping this in view investigations of the two most promising project namely the Siang (Dihang) Dam Project and the Subansiri Dam Projects were pursued and project reports were prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. These projects which are now to be taken up in three stages each have since been transferred to National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) for detailed investigation and implementation. Detailed Project Report of another major project namely Tipaimukh Multipurpose Project on river Barak has also been prepared which will inter alia have flood control benefits in the Barak Valley. The Government of India also approved implementation of Pagladiya Multipurpose Project in Assam in 2001 at a cost of Rs. 542.90 crore (Revised tentative cost Rs. 1069.40 crore) which has flood control as a major benefit. In addition to the above, the Government of India has also been providing Central assistance to the State Governments to take up critical anti erosion / flood management works. A scheme amounting to Rs. 178.85 crore with Central Share of Rs. 136.17 crore was approved during the 10th Plan for Ganga Basin States. Similarly a scheme of Rs. 150 crore has been approved for North Eastern Region including Sikkim, North Bengal. Brahmaputra Board has also executed anti erosion works worth Rs. 21.91 crore. Another scheme amounting to Rs. 41.28 crore has been approved to be fully funded by the Government of India for the protection of Majuli Island. Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are being provided financial assistance for maintenance of Gandak and Kosi embankments (Nepal portion) which they execute after every flood

season. Assistance is being rendered to Bihar for the scheme namely, "Extension, raising and strengthening of embankments for rivers Lalbakeya, Kamla, Bagmati and Khando".