

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011
EROSION ALONG RIVER BANKS
Mandal Dr. Tarun

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken note of the perennial problem of land erosion along the banks of rivers in the country including Sunderbans of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to check the land erosion caused by rivers; and
- (c) the details of areas, where central assistance was released and funds were spent to control the erosion during the last three years alongwith the success achieved in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2011 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "EROSION ALONG RIVER BANKS". ASKED BY DR. TARUN MANDAL

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The schemes for flood and erosion control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments, as per their own priorities, out of their State plan funds. In order to provide financial support to the State Governments, the Government of India also assists the flood prone States in flood management and anti-erosion works for critical reaches.

The Government of India set up Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in 1972 for preparation of comprehensive master plans for flood control measures in the Ganga basin states. Detailed Comprehensive Master Plans for all the 23 river systems constituting the Ganga basin have been prepared by GFCC and circulated to the concerned State Governments for implementation. Thereafter, Brahmaputra Board was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1980 to prepare comprehensive master plans for flood control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley. The Brahmaputra Board has prepared the Master Plans of the main stem of the Brahmaputra and Barak along with 52 major tributaries of the region.

The Government of India also having continuing dialogue with neighboring countries viz. Nepal, China and Bhutan on matters related to flood forecasting and construction of storage dams to check floods in Indian territory due to rivers flowing from their territories.

(c) During XI Plan period, central assistance is being provided to all the flood affected states for river management, flood control and anti- erosion works under a state sector scheme, namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)". A total of 353 works from 22 states with a total estimated cost of Rs. 6796.93 crore have been included under "FMP" during XI plan and central assistance amounting to Rs. 2669.01 crore (including Rs. 89.79 crore for spilled over works of X Plan) has been released to the concerned States as on 31.07.2011. Out of 353 approved works, seven works with a total cost of Rs. 1390.65 Crore are from the Sunderbans of West Bengal and central assistance amounting to Rs. 552.63 crore has been released towards these schemes. A total of 218 works have been reported physically completed as on 31.03.2011 which includes two works of Sunderbans. The state-wise summary of works approved, funds released and works completed are given at Annexure-I.

Besides the above, grants-in-aid is also being provided to Bihar, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal states for taking up flood protection works on International border rivers under the Central Sector Scheme "River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas" during XI Plan. The grants-in-Aid released to the State Governments under "River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas" during XI Plan are given at Annexure-II.