

(d) the precautions being taken to minimize any potential loss of life or property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir. Cracks due to land subsidence took place in July, 2008 close to the right bank of the river Burhablanga, Purana Balasore, Orissa. It happened at place called Kahnu Behera Sahi (latitude 21° 29' 02"N; longitude 86° 57' 25"E). As per the Geological Survey of India (GSI) team that visited the affected site on 25th July, 2008 noted that crescent shaped cracks of about 5-27m wide and 200m long were observed.

(b) The details of the land subsidence and the reasons thereof, based on the assessment of various visiting teams are given below:—

1. This was a common event that naturally happens with meandering rivers in alluvial ground (right side bank of the river prone to erosions).
2. All the crescent shaped depressions are bounded by major planes of failure, with a number of radiating cracks at high angles to the major planes of failure, have also been recorded at the affected site.
3. The development of the subsidence and cracks are caused by deepening of river channel by turbulent flow/eddies possibly caused by collision of flowing water against the spurs built across the river leading to the scouring of the material on the right bank resulting in removal of material from the toe of the bank as weeks earlier the river experienced heavy flooding.
4. After the water level dropped down, sudden drainage of ground water from the failed zone has taken place leading to the shrinkage of soil mass, causing formation of fissures/cracks and subsidence of the ground between the cracks.

(c) No Sir. Significant seismic activity is neither reported nor is any apparent signature of regional fracturing, reactivation of paleo-channel or neotectonic activity in the area reported.

(d) The following measures were suggested to the local authorities by the GSI for minimizing any potential loss of life or property:—

1. Prevent construction of heavy structures in close proximity of the right bank of the river.
2. Suggested to construct suitable spurs of adequate height at the right bank.
3. Minimize urbanization/alongside crescent shaped bends of the river from safety point of view.

Ganga water treaty with Bangladesh

2141. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had signed Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh;
- (b) if so, whether the issue of Tipaimukh dam project remain unresolved with Bangladesh;
- (c) if so, whether Government proposes to have bilateral discussions with Bangladesh and to resolve the Tipaimukh dam project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. India and Bangladesh signed a treaty on sharing of the Ganga Waters at Farakka on 12th December, 1996.

(b) to (d) Government of India has shared information on the Tipaimukh Dam Project with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government has also invited a Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation to visit India in this connection.

Stockpile of nuclear weapons by Pakistan

2142. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Pakistan has been increasing its stockpile of nuclear weapons and crossing its minimum deterrent threshold;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government on such reports of Pakistan;
- (c) whether stockpiling of nuclear weapons by Pakistan is causing grave concern for India; and
- (d) if so, the preventive/counter steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes. Government has seen reports in the public domain that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear weapons production capacity.

(b) to (d) Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

New treaty with Nepal

2143. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite the current political crisis in Nepal, India and its Himalayan neighbours are considering to review their 60 years old trade treaty as India Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950;