

- (f) The measures taken by the coal companies in this regard are as follows:-
- (i) Implementation of Integrity Pact.
 - (ii) Improving vigilance administration by leveraging technology; curbing malpractices by increasing transparency through effective use of Website and bringing about accountability in the discharge of duties and in public dealings.
 - (iii) Action taken for appointment of Independent External Monitors for Coal India and Subsidiary Companies as per CVC circular to review and oversee the implementation of Integrity Pact Programme.
 - (iv) Sensitive posts have been identified for effective compliance with directives of CVC regarding transfer of personnel working in sensitive posts.
 - (v) Preparation of Agreed list.
 - (vi) Updating the List of officials with doubtful Integrity.
 - (vii) Regular Interaction with CBI.
 - (viii) Organizing Inter-active session amongst high ranking officers of CIL and Subsidiaries and CVOs and CVC.
 - (ix) Transparency in actions highlighted during the session on Right to Information ACT at IICM Ranchi.
 - (x) Rationalization of existing contract management manual,
 - (xi) Referring cases to CTE's examination.
 - (xii) Monitoring of court cases arising out of punitive vigilance action.
 - (xiii) Undertaking System improvement studies.

Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management

*107. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 371 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19 August, 2010 and state:

(a) the details of the follow-up action taken after the meeting of the Joint Group of Experts on Flood Management between Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan; and

(b) the details of the steps taken to save the people of North Bengal who are affected by floods every year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) After the 2nd meeting of the Joint Group of Experts (JGE)), the Joint Technical Team (JTT) had been

reconstituted with modified Terms of Reference (TOR). The first meeting of the reconstituted Joint Technical Team (JTT) was held at Phuentsholing, Bhutan on 13-16 September, 2010. After visiting the vulnerable stretches in border areas, the JTT made recommendations on each of the TOR pertaining to assessment of sediment load and its impact on rivers, causes of landslides and causes of flooding, stability assessment and remedial measures, etc.

The recommendations of the reconstituted JTT were considered jointly in the 3rd (last) meeting of Joint Group of Experts held at Thimphu, Bhutan on 07-09 February, 2011. During the meeting, it was agreed that both the countries will integrate map of common rivers to the agreed scale of 1:50,000 in their respective territories and two sides will exchange the map for finalization in the next meeting of the JTT. It was *inter alia* agreed that assessment of the sediment load and its impact on the rivers Rethi, Pugli and Jainti will be taken up for assessment in the first phase. Short term and long term flood management measures have also been agreed by both the sides. As regards, the joint visit to Tsatichhu lake in Bhutan, JGE decided that there was no necessity to make a joint visit as the landslide dam seemed to have stabilized with free flow of water. The JGE directed the JTT to decide on the various action points/studies in its next meeting which is scheduled in the month of September, 2011.

(b) Flood management being State subject, flood control and management schemes are planned, formulated and implemented by the concerned State Governments as per their own priority. The role of Central Government is technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The Central Government however, is providing central assistance to the State Governments for taking up Critical/priority Flood Management Works under a State Sector Scheme, namely "Flood Management Programme" (FMP) during Eleventh Plan period. Six Flood management works of North Bengal with a total cost of Rs. 22.33 crore (Central Share: Rs. 16.75 crore) are being provided central assistance under FMP during Eleventh Plan. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 13.39 crore was released to the State Government of West Bengal as on 31.7.2011. Out of 6 flood management works, 5 works are physically completed as on 30.06.2011. No new scheme has been received from State Government of West Bengal for inclusion under FMP during 2011-12.

Further, under the Eleventh Plan Scheme "River Management Activities and Works Related to Border Areas", 100% central assistance is being provided to the State Government of West Bengal for undertaking bank protection works along international border with Bangladesh. Three works along the river Mahananda have been completed at a cost of Rs. 32.30 crore. Ten works at an estimated cost of Rs. 63.58 crore along the rivers Punarbhaba, Atrai, Nagar, Karotoya, Kulik and Tangun are ongoing and an amount of Rs. 32.12 crore has been released as advance assistance to the State Government during 2010-11.

As a non-structural measure, Central Water Commission issues flood forecast enabling the administrative authorities of West Bengal to take timely action for evacuation in flood affected areas on Rivers Raidak-I, Torsa and Jaldhaka, flowing from Bhutan to North Bengal.

Availability of channels on DTH

†*108. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the prevailing circumstances, a common television viewer has been left at the mercy of Direct-to-Home (DTH) operators;

(b) if not, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a common viewer is forced to watch such channels for which he does not pay;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether, while implementing the existing system, Government had assured that the common viewer would watch only those channels which he would opt for?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Adequate safeguards have been provided to the subscribers of DTH platforms with respect to the availability of channels in the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2010 dated 21st July, 2010 issued by TRAI for addressable platforms (which includes DTH platform). The above said tariff order in effect provides the subscribers with an option to opt for channels of their own choice *i.e.* they can choose channels on a-la-carte basis. For this purpose, the addressable platform service providers are mandated to offer all their pay channels on a-la-carte basis. In addition to this, the service providers may also offer a bouquet of channels to the subscribers. Thus, the subscribers have the choice to select the channels either on a-la-carte basis or on the basis of bouquet(s) as provided by the addressable platform service providers and can budget their monthly bills based on their subscription. The Tariff Order further provides that it shall be open to the service providers to specify minimum monthly subscription, not exceeding one hundred fifty rupees per month, towards channels subscribed by the consumer. Moreover, the tariff order also mandates that no addressable platform service provider shall increase the charges for a subscription package offered by him for a minimum period of six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber for such subscription package.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.