

economic good so as to promote its conservation and efficient use; recognize ecological needs of the river; adaptation of strategies to address issues of climate change; evolve benchmarks for water uses; setting up of Water Regulatory Authority; incentivization for recycle and re-use; statutory powers to water users associations to collect and retain a portion of water charges; removal of disparity in stipulations for water supply in urban and rural areas; managing water resources projects and services through community participation and adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management etc.

Control of flood in Bihar

3530. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kosi River is known as the “Sorrow of Bihar” as its annual flood affects about 21,000 square km (8,100 sq miles) of fertile agricultural lands thereby disturbing the rural economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Central Government to control flood situation in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) In view of severe flood damages caused by river Kosi, the people sometimes call it as “Sorrow of Bihar”. As per State-wise data maintained by Central Water Commission for the period from 1953 to 2013, about 0.596 million hectare (i.e. 5960 sq. km.) of cropped area is affected by floods in Bihar annually, which includes cropped area affected due to floods in river Kosi.

The subject of management of floods falls within the purview of the States and the Union Government provides technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional financial support to all States including Bihar for effective management of floods in critical areas. The following major steps have been taken by the Government of India (GoI) to help Government of Bihar in control of floods.

(i) Ganga Flood Control Commission was set up in 1972 at Patna which advises the Ganga basin States on flood management measures. It has prepared

comprehensive master plans for management of floods and sent them to all the Ganga Basin States including Bihar for implementation.

- (ii) A Flood Management Programme was launched by GoI in the Eleventh Plan and its continuation during Twelfth Plan had been approved by Cabinet in October, 2013. Under this Programme, the Central assistance of ₹ 866.23 crore has been released to Government of Bihar till date.
- (iii) The Central Water Commission issues flood forecasts at 32 Stations in Bihar during every monsoon season to enable the State Government to decide programmes for safety of people in flood affected areas.
- (iv) The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with Government of Nepal for construction of storage reservoirs on rivers flowing from Nepal into Bihar for moderation of floods in Bihar.

Ganga Manthan

†3531. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the report on pollution in Ganga was already prepared before the current financial year;
- (b) if so, whether the huge amount of ₹ 100 crores would be spent again in the current financial year preparing the report based on how to clean the river, its study, intellectual debates like 'Ganga Manthan' and survey; and
- (c) if so, the details of reasons for repeating the same exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for 10 years has been signed in 2010 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and a consortium of Seven (7) IITs for preparation of a comprehensive River Basin Management Plan for Ganga. Besides the IITs, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, Banaras Hindu University, various universities and research institutes are also involved in Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP). An interim report has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.