

in ODF villages. Various other development schemes are being converged with the sanitation outcomes.

- Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened. The IMIS has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App has been developed that provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App.

Flood in Bengaluru due to encroachment

*209. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent flood that inundated Bengaluru city was due to encroachment of tanks, lakes, feeder canals or storm water drains; and

(b) if so, the details of steps that Government proposes to take, in consultation with the State Government, to conserve water bodies in metro cities?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) The Government of Karnataka has confirmed that the recent flood that inundated Bengaluru city was due to encroachment of tanks, lakes, feeder canals or storm water drains.

(b) The State Government has further informed that the following action has been taken by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike:

1. Encroachments of natural water ways have been identified, which obstruct the flow of water causing floods and necessary steps are being taken to remove the encroachment of water ways as per the KMC Act, 1976.
2. Offices of the Joint Director of Land records, Revenue Department, Bengaluru have prepared survey sketches, marking the encroachment of water ways as per the village maps and tippanies.
3. Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner, BBMP consisting of Joint Director of Land Records, Superintendent of Police of BMTF, Joint Commissioners/Chief Engineers of all zones, Executive Engineers of SWD Department as Member with Chief Engineer, SWD as Convener will hold regular meetings to review and monitor the encroachment drive on a regular basis.

4. After removal of encroachments, the following development works have been taken up;
 - (i) Formation of kaccha drain to accommodate easy flow of water.
 - (ii) Providing chain link fencing for safety and to avoid the dumping of debris.
 - (iii) Desilting of storm water drains.
 - (iv) 75 Flood damage correction works have been taken up on an emergency basis.
 - (v) The State Government has sanctioned ₹ 800 crores for construction/remodelling of storm water drains in low lying areas/vulnerable points in Bengaluru City. The works are already under progress.

Considering the importance of water bodies for socio economic development and sustainable water security to the local population, the Union Secretary (MoWR, RD & GR) *vide* letter dated 26.02.2016 requested all the State Governments to take necessary steps for keeping all the water bodies encroachment free throughout the country. Further, Secretary (WR, RD & GR) *vide* letter dated 07.11.2016 requested all the State Governments to take appropriate action in respect of inclusion of water bodies in land records, inclusion of water bodies as integral part of town planning process, and to ensure strict action for the encroachers, etc. 'Draft Guidelines for Conservation and Protection of Water Bodies' have also been prepared and circulated to the concerned Central Ministries and State/UTs.

The Ministry of Urban Development has issued a detailed Advisory on 'Conservation and Restoration of Water Bodies in Urban Areas' in August, 2013, which stipulates as:

"The urban Water Bodies should be designated as a separate land use classification that is legally tenable. It should be done in parallel with the Protected Areas as defined under the Environment Protection Act and the Forest Protection Act to prevent their encroachment and destruction."

This Ministry has launched a scheme Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies to preserve / save deteriorating water bodies and to restore water bodies which are not in use. The scheme has multiple objectives such as reclamation of lost irrigation potential, improvement of command area/catchment area of the tanks, restoring/increase in storage capacity of water bodies and development of tourism and cultural activities by providing Central Grant to the State Governments.

A model draft bill for flood plain zoning legislation was also circulated by the Union Government in 1975 to all the States.