

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies.
- Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
- Awareness generation programs/workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water are conducted periodically by CGWB.

Desiltation of Damodar river

3288. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken for desiltation of rivers in West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government is planning for desiltation of river Damodar; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to forecast floods and rehabilitation work undertaken during post flood periods in the State of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. Rivers pickup, carry and drop silt load as per their regime conditions *i.e.* discharge in the river, river slope, morphology, nature of silt etc. The issue of desilting of rivers has been considered by Government since long and in this context a multi-disciplinary Committee headed by Former Chairman, Central Water Commission in 2002 (Mittal Committee) has opined that large scale desilting of rivers in general is not feasible technically due to several reasons like non-sustainability, non-availability of vast land required for the disposal of dredged material etc.

The measures for flood management including desilting of rivers are formulated and implemented by the State Government as per their priority. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government by providing technical advise and promotional financial assistance for critical areas.

State Government of West Bengal has informed that desiltation of Mundeswari river for a stretch of 14 km in Hooghly district is part of recently launched (February 2020) World Bank funded "West Bengal major Irrigation and Flood Management Project"

and this is expected to improve the drainage of the flood prone Lower Damodar Valley of Hooghly and Howdah Districts.

(c) Central water Commission is presently maintaining a network of 16 flood forecasting stations in West Bengal out of which 12 are level forecast stations in villages and towns along the river banks including Ganga / Damodar and 4 are inflow forecasting stations.

The State Government undertakes relief measures in the wake of natural disasters from State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) placed at their disposal in accordance with approved norms of Government of India. Additional assistance is provided from National Disaster Response Funds (NDRF) as per established procedure. Providing relief assistance and its distribution to farmers is the responsibility of State Government from the SDRF.

Shortage of clean drinking water

†3289. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people die every year in the country due to shortage and impurities in water and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of villages and towns of the country in which people drink impure water along with the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) whether there is any action plan to provide clean drinking water to the citizens of the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) As reported by States/ UTs, as on 15.03.2020, 81.76% rural habitations having 77.54% population have provision of minimum 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of potable drinking water and 15.32% rural habitations having 19.23% population have service level of less than 40 lpcd potable water, whereas 2.91% rural habitations having 3.24% population with water sources having quality issues. State-wise number of habitations with water sources having quality issues is given in the Statement (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.