

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2963
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

SOIL DREDGING IN BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

2963 SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN
SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Brahmaputra river has the highest sediment yield per square kilometers in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps for dredging in Brahmaputra river to reduce flooding by allowing more water to fill in the river; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) As per the data available in Brahmaputra Board the annual average sediment load per sq. km is 1224 metric ton, which is high.

(c) & (d) Following steps have been taken by the Water Resources Department, Government of Assam:

A meeting on the proposal of dredging of river Brahmaputra including its tributaries was held on 23/08/2016, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam. As decided in the meeting, a team of experts/officials from Dredging Corporation of India visited Assam from 02/09/2016 to 09/09/2016. On 21/07/2017, the Hon'ble Minister, Water Resources, Assam visited the Head Quarter of Dredging Corporation of India at Visakhapatnam, met the officials of DCI and discussed about the strategy of dredging in Brahmaputra.

Subsequently, a meeting was held on 04/12/2017 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam and it was decided to procure dredger and other machineries for dredging the tributaries in the State. Accordingly, a scheme costing Rs.18.00 Cr has been sanctioned under SDRF and work order has already been issued for procurement of dredger. It is expected the said procurement process will be completed during the current year.

Moreover, in National Waterway- 2 (NW-2) from Dhubri to Sadiya (891km.) in Assam, which is an operational water way for navigation, Inland Water Way Authority of India (IWAI) undertook regular maintenance dredging for maintaining the required Least Available Depth (LAD) of 2.5 m. depth between Dhubri and Neamati; 2.0 m. depth between Neamati and Dibrugarh and 1.5 m. depth between Dibrugarh and Orumghat.