

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2328
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

FLOODS IN BIHAR

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Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) details of steps Government has taken to prevent flooding in the Mahananda, Koshi, Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Lakhandei and Avadhara rivers in North Bihar;
- (b) details of steps Government has taken to prevent flooding in the Son, Punpun and Phalgu rivers in South Bihar; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to engage Nepal for the regular floods in North Bihar every year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b) Floods are natural calamity that the country faces almost every year, in varying degrees of magnitude. The occurrence of floods can be attributed to various factors, including wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake out-bursts. Flood management schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical guidance and also promotional financial assistance for management of floods in critical areas. The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to assist the State Governments in effective flood management. During XI Plan Government of India had launched Flood Management Programme (FMP) for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood management and erosion control which continued during XII Plan and thereafter, as a component of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP) for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21. Central Assistance to the tune of Rs.924.41 Crores has been provided to State of Bihar up to March 2021 under FMP component of this Programme.

State Government of Bihar has taken up several flood management projects involving construction of new embankments and strengthening of existing embankments on rivers Mahananda, Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Lakhandei and Avadhara rivers in North Bihar. Embankments have also been constructed on Sone, Punpun and Falgu rivers.

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As far as non structural measures of flood management are concerned, Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. Presently, CWC issues flood forecasts for 330 forecasting stations (198 river level forecast stations & 132 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. Out of these 330 stations, 43 stations (3-inflow & 40 level forecast) are located in State of Bihar.

(c) Main reason for floods in the State of Bihar is on account of increased discharge in rivers of North Bihar like Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Mahananda due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas which mainly lie in Nepal. The management of floods due to these rivers has been a concern. The related issues are discussed in the existing Indo-Nepal bilateral mechanisms comprising of (i) Joint Ministerial Level Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR) (ii) Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) (iii) Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC), (iv) Joint Committee on Gandak & Kosi Projects (JCKGP) and (v) Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM). Government of India is having regular dialogue with the Government of Nepal for construction of dams on border/cross-border rivers for mutual benefit of the two countries which includes flood control.
