

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 115
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

ANNUAL FLOODING IN ASSAM

115 SHRI RAJMANI PATEL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of annual riverbank erosion caused by flooding of the Brahmaputra in Assam
- (b) whether Government has assessed the reasons for such annual flooding
- (c) whether Government has or intends to implement measures to prevent such flooding
- (d) whether Government has conducted consultations with local stakeholders to solve flooding and soil erosion in Assam
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and
- (f) whether Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Assam to solve annual flooding and consequent soil erosion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) As reported by WRD, Assam, during post independence period, Assam faced major floods in 1954, 1962, 1972, 1977, 1984, 1988, 1998, 2002 and 2004. The severity of flood problem of the state has been further aggravated by erosion on both banks of river Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

The major causes of annual floods and river bank erosion are as under:

- i. High intensity rainfall in short duration
- ii. Poor or inadequate drainage/channel capacity
- iii. High silt load, steep slope and transverse gradient lead to erosion and deportation of silt in the plains resulting in changing the course of rivers.
- iv. Encroachment of riverine areas.
- v. Deforestation/watershed degradation
- vi. Failure of flood management and flood protection structures

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(c) As per Constitutional provisions, the subject of Flood Management including erosion control falls within the purview of the State Governments. The flood management & anti-erosion schemes are planned, investigated and implemented by the State Governments with own resources as per priority within the State. The Union Government renders assistance to States which is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature.

The Water Resources Department, Government of Assam has been implementing flood protection schemes under Flood Management Programme (FMP), NABARD-RIDF and others components from time to time to mitigate the perennial problem of floods in the State.

Under the Centrally Sponsored FMP, a total of 141 projects costing Rs 2383.11 Cr were approved during XI Plan and XII Plan. Since start of XI Plan, total Central Assistance of Rs 1286. 39 Cr has been released till date to Government of Assam.

In addition, Brahmaputra Board is also implementing Anti-erosion measures at Dhola Hatighuli in Tinsukia District, Majuli Island in Majuli District and Mankachar-Kalair Alga in South Salmara-Mankachar District of Assam.

(d) & (e) Yes, sir. The State Government has taken local people, public representatives and Gram Sabhas into confidence while formulating schemes for flood and erosion.

Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati also consults stakeholders from time to time. A seminar on 'Soil Erosion in NER' involving various stakeholders was conducted on 15/02/2019. A Webinar on 'Bio Engineering Measures for management of river bank erosion' was also conducted by the Board on 13/08/2021.

(f) Proposals for addressing flood/erosion prone areas/reaches, as per priorities of State Government, are received in Central Water Commission from time to time.
