

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 189
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Impact of climate change on Madhepura district in Bihar

189* SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the district of Madhepura, Bihar ranks 3rd in the Climate Vulnerability Index under flood and drought;
- (b) the details of measures taken by Government to improve the situation of the District; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study to understand the impact of such vulnerability on marginalised sections of Bihar, especially in the district of Madhepura, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 189 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.08.2024 RAISED BY SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

(a) to (c) Vulnerability and risk assessment studies related to flood and drought in the context of climate change are dependent on a number of factors such as the exposure to hazards, spatio-temporal sensitivity and adaptive capacity evaluated by socio-economic and governance mechanisms.

Floods are natural calamities 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, excessive snowmelt and glacial lake outbursts. Flood management including erosion control falls within the purview of the State Governments. Flood management and anti-erosion schemes are formulated and implemented by concerned State Governments as per their priority.

To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, the Government of India has implemented Flood Management Programme (FMP) for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, etc. which is being continued as a component of “Flood Management and Border Area Programme” (FMBAP) upto 2025-26. In the state of Bihar, 51 projects were included for central assistance under FMP component of ongoing FMBAP of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The 46 completed/dropped projects have given protection to an area of 28.70 lakh hectare and protected a population of about 38.37 million. Central Assistance amounting to the tune of Rs. 924.41 crore has been released to the state of Bihar under FMP.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2020 has published “Flood Hazard Atlas – Bihar” for effective flood management and post-flood activities associated with damage assessment and flood relief. Flood hazard maps are one of the important non-structural methods of flood damage mitigation. As per Bihar’s Flood hazard atlas, 71% area of the Madhepura district falls under very low flood hazard severity and only 11% of the area is prone to high to very high flood hazard severity.

The Government of India has taken various steps to combat drought situation across the country. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time bound campaign has been launched in 2019 with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability by focusing on accelerated implementation of five targeted interventions viz. water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. The campaign was further expanded with the theme “Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban) across the country. The mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with an objective to conserve water for future. The mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country.

The Government stands committed to combating climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water,

sustainable agriculture, health, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. In line with NAPCC and taking into account the State specific issues relating to climate change, thirty-four States/Union Territories (UTs), including Bihar, have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) which covers the entire State including Madhepura. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under its two schemes namely National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change and Climate Change Action Programme has released Rs. 18 crore to the State of Bihar for various projects to support climate actions and capacity building which have the potential for replication by the State.
