GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *146

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

PROBLEM OF SILT IN THE RIVERS OF RAIGAD DISTRICT

*146.# SHRI DHAIRYASHIL MOHAN PATIL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to check the problem of increasing silt in rivers like Savitri, Kundalika, Patalganga and Amba of Raigad district;

(b) whether any special plan has been formulated for desilting of these rivers and if so, by when its implementation would be completed; and

(c) the long-term solution to reduce the increased risk of floods due to siltation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *146 TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING "PROBLEM OF SILT IN THE RIVERS OF RAIGAD DISTRICT"

(a) & (b) Erosion, movement and deposition of sediment in a river are natural regulating functions of a river. Rivers tend to maintain a balance between the silt load carried and silt load deposited, maintaining a river regime. Dredging/desilting of rivers is not considered techno-economic as it can provide marginally benefits and is effective only for a short period. Selective dredging in specific reaches such as tidal rivers, confluence points with narrow constrictions, etc., sometimes may have to be undertaken based upon local site conditions. However, the same should be backed by proper scientific model study. The desilting measures including dredging in specific reaches of rivers for removal of drainage congestion, channel capacity improvement and navigation purpose are formulated and implemented by concerned States/ agencies as per requirement.

Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra has informed that removal of silt from Savitri river and its tributaries were undertaken through District Disaster Management Authority in the year 2022 and 2023 and approximately 30.25 lakh cubic meter of silt was removed. Further, the proposals for silt removal from rivers Savitri, Kundalika, Patalganga and Amba rivers of Raigad District have also been taken up.

For the comprehensive and holistic management of sediments in a holistic manner, the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, in extensive consultations with Central Government Ministries/ Departments/ State Governments/ UTs have prepared the "National Framework for Sediment Management (NFSM)". Its emphasis is on reducing silt generation rather than silt removal and promote technological innovations & best practices. The framework lays emphasis on sediment management through integrated river basin management plan giving due consideration to environment and ecology.

(c) Floods are primarily a natural calamity that the country faces almost every year, in varying degrees of magnitude due to various factors including silting of river beds.

Integrated flood approach aims at adopting judicious mix of structural and non-structural measures to provide a reasonable degree of protection against flood damages at economic cost. Structural Measures bring relief to the flood prone areas by reducing flood flows and thereby reducing the flood levels. Creation of reservoirs with adequate flood cushion is one of the structural measures for long term solution in flood management. Non-structural measures facilitate timely evacuation of the people and shifting of their movable property to safer grounds by having advance warning of incoming flood through setting up a flood forecasting system. Discouraging creation of valuable assets/settlement of the people in the areas

subject to frequent flooding i.e. enforcing flood plain zoning regulation. Catchment area treatment is crucial for managing water resources, mitigating flood risks and preserving bio-diversity within a watershed.

Flood management and anti-erosion 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. To strengthen the structural measures of flood management, Ministry had implemented during XI & XII Plan Flood Management Programme (FMP) for providing Central Assistance to States for works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, etc. which subsequently continued as a component of "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP) for the period from 2017-18 to 2020-21 and further continued for a period of 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with total outlay of Rs. 4,100 crore. Total Central assistance amounting to Rs 7136.00 Cr. has been released under FMP component to various states since the inception of the programme.

Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. The network has been established in consultation with the State Governments and UTs. In order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people & take other remedial measures, CWC has developed basin wise flood forecasting model based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling for 7 days' advance advisory at its forecasting stations in addition to short range forecast with response time upto 24 hours. Presently, CWC issues flood forecasts for 340 forecasting stations (200 river level forecast stations & 140 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations) in India. Out of this, Maharashtra have 22 flood forecast stations (8 level forecast & 14 inflow forecast).

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