

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:184
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DIGGING OF COURSE OF SARASWATI RIVER
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has formulated any plan to undertake digging of the entire course of the extinct Saraswati river with the help of the State Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked for the purpose; and
- (c) the time-frame, if any, fixed for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

- (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has not formulated any plan to undertake digging of the entire course of the extinct Saraswati River. However, the Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan in collaboration with Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Mumbai is engaged in identifying potential pockets for ground water in ancient course of river Saraswati through proper construction of the river course through a multi-disciplinary study.
- (b) The CGWB has carried out investigations in Kisangarh- Tanot-Tongewala area of Rajasthan using geophysical methods and have recorded fresh water at five locations out of seventeen sites located on palaeochannel. These wells were drilled in the depth range of 70 to 136 metre below ground level and yielded water from 60 to 1000 liters per minute. The study is continuing to decipher the age of water through isotopic studies. The studies are undertaken under normal ground water exploration programme of the CGWB and no separate funds are allocated to the CGWB for this purpose.
- (c) Keeping in view the activities involved in the entire process, it is difficult to fix any time frame for the completion of the studies.