

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5220
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
EICHHORNIA IN ANCIENT WATER BODIES AND RIVERS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water and water creatures are suffering heavy damages due to invasion of aquatic plants like Eichhornia into the country's ancient water bodies and rivers;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to save the country's water bodies and rivers from the invasion of Eichhornia; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) & (b) Eichhornia is an obnoxious weed proliferating and colonizing water bodies in the country, creating problems to agriculture and obstruction in navigation. Government has not conducted any comprehensive survey in this regard for the water bodies and rivers across the country.
- (c) De-weeding is one of the main components under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetlands Conservation Programme being implemented by the Ministry for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. There is no specific scientific method developed for controlling the aquatic weeds. Different methods used for weed removal include manual, mechanical and biological methods. Further proliferation of the weeds is controlled by preventing discharge of waste water containing nutrients.