

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:27  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010  
DE SILTING OF RIVERS  
Alagiri Shri S. ;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether due to siltation, major rivers, lakes, reservoirs get shallow which results in loss of water and recurrence of floods;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has launched any programme to mitigate the problem;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken to check de-siltation of rivers in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 27 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.02.2010 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "DE-SILTING OF RIVERS".

- (a) Yes Sir, due to siltation, major rivers, lakes and reservoirs get shallow which results in loss of water and recurrence of floods.
- (b) Based on the sedimentation data of 144 reservoirs collected by Central Water Commission, the average annual loss in gross storage capacity of the reservoirs has been estimated as 0.44% due to siltation.
- (c) The Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources has been conducting surveys to assess the capacity reduction in case of selected reservoirs and the survey of 26 reservoirs has been completed. A scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) has been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests since June' 2001 for conservation and management of 58 nos. of polluted and degraded lakes including desiltation, in urban and semi-urban areas in the country.
- (d) The details of sanctioned project for conservation of 58 lakes at an estimated cost of Rs.883.94 crore are given in Annex- I.
- (e) The desiltation of rivers on large scale is not techno-economically viable as it is associated with the problems of disposal of excavated earth and high cost of repeated desiltation and maintenance of river channels after desiltation. However, in case of absolute necessity, specific reaches of rivers can be considered based on model studies and techno-economic viability by the State Governments.