

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
IMPACT OF CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of environmental protection schemes run by the Government in the country and the number of plans being implemented under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP);
- (b) whether construction of dams across the river Bhagirathi and other tributaries of Ganga may affect the flow of water into the Ganges;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome of this study; and
- (f) the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 369 to be answered on Wednesday, the 21st April, 2010 on "Impact of Construction of Dams"

(a) Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing nine thematic schemes comprising of thirty two (32) sub-schemes / projects for environmental protection in the country, including the scheme of National River Conservation Plan. These environmental protection schemes of diverse aspects include areas of pollution abatement, conservation of natural resources/ecosystems, environmental education and awareness, Impact Assessment & coastal management, and conservation of rivers/ lakes.

(b) to (f) Ministry of Power (MoP) had constituted a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) to examine the technical issues involved for ensuring required flow in the river Bhagirathi, to keep the river live and to ensure perennial environmental flow in the river. The HLEG recommended the release of 4 cumec water as perennial environmental flow for Bhagirathi and 15 cumec on special religious occasions from Loharinag Pala barrage. However, MoP decided that in view of the sentiments attached to Bhagirathi, 16 cumec water would be released from Lohari-nag Pala perennially or as may be decided by the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).

NGRBA in its first meeting on 5th October 2009 decided that the issue of three hydro power projects namely Bhairon Ghati, Loharinag Pala and Pala Maneri may be studied by the Ministries of Environment & Forests and Power and a report submitted to NGRBA. The report has since been submitted.