

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5302
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
EXPLORATION OF SARASWATI RIVER
Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plans to explore the underground flowing river Saraswati and exploit its water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved as a result thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has no plans to explore the underground flowing river Saraswati and exploit its water. However, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has taken up a project named "ONGC Project Saraswati" for exploration of deep ground water resources in drought prone arid/semi arid regions of India with the objective to investigate (a) Existence of situations akin to Libyan Great Manmade River Project and their exploitation in drought prone arid/semi arid regions of India. (b) Alternatively, identification of deeper aquifers for exploitation of groundwater in drought prone arid/semi arid regions otherwise not tapped by agencies such as State Groundwater Boards and central ground water bodies. ONGC has informed that based on vertical electrical sounding survey result, one of the locations identified was taken up for drilling and the well (Saraswati-1) near Jaisalmer town has been drilled up to 554 m and produced reasonably less saline water (3050 milligrams per litres) at the rate of 76000 litres per hour.