

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3602  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
EXTINCTION OF RIVERS  
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

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

- (a) whether the rivers are shrinking and getting shallow due to encroachment being caused at the banks of the rivers and silting therein;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to demolish the unauthorised constructions at the banks of the rivers and putting a check on their reoccurrence in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (a) & (b) River flows and siltation in rivers are impacted by a host of factors like amount of rainfall, extent of forest cover, nature of soil beds of rivers besides anthropogenic activities on the banks of the rivers and flood plains.
- (c) to (e) Demolition of unauthorized constructions and keeping a check on them comes under the purview of State Governments and is dealt with as per the relevant laws. With regard to preventing disposal of wastes, Central and State Pollution Control Boards are taking actions to prohibit such activities. Further, the programmes undertaken in this regard inter-alia include afforestation, river front development etc.