

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
SUSTAINING RIVER FLOW
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether major rivers in the country are life sustaining and if so, the steps taken during the last five years for their treatment;
- (b) whether flow of water in certain rivers is reduced to one-third and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid deforestation in their catchment areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam. Conservation of rivers and lakes is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. Ministry of Environment & Forests is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments towards conservation of rivers and lakes under the Centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP).

(b) Some reduction in flow has been observed in downstream of storages on various rivers wherever water is diverted for drinking and irrigation purposes. However, as per the data analysed by Central Water Commission (CWC), the observed data of average water availability in major rivers before 1985 and after 1985, do not indicate any trend regarding reduction in average water availability.

(c) Government of India has launched National Mission for a Green India as part of National Action Plan on Climate Change, inter alia, to increase forest / tree cover on 5 million hectare lands and improve quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectare lands in the next 10 years coinciding with the Twelfth and Thirteenth five year plan periods.