

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

PRESERVATION OF WETLANDS

Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the size of floodplains and wetlands are shrinking in size due to construction projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any dedicated mission to preserving the wetlands and floodplains of rivers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether a study has been undertaken by the Government to look at floodplains as a sustainable source of water; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Natural processes of silting and meandering of rivers, together with rapid urbanization, and other developmental activities, may impact the river flood plains and other water bodies. However, no corroborative evidence is available with this Ministry regarding shrinking of flood plains and wetlands due to construction projects.
- (c) & (d) No Sir. However, for conservation of river Ganga, the Central Govt has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority to ensure effective abatement of pollution by adopting a holistic river basin approach. The National Mission Clean Ganga has been set up to implement the NGRBA programme in a dedicated manner.
- (e) & (f) No such study has been conducted by this Ministry.