

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2831
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
WIDENING OF RIVERS
Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rivers in various States of the country which require widening and deepening and the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for these works so far;
- (b) whether the Union Government is aware of the hindrances faced in widening and deepening of Meethi river of Mumbai; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) No proposals for widening and deepening of rivers have been received in the Ministry of Water Resources from the States except the case of Meethi river in the State of Maharashtra. As informed by Ministry of Urban Development, no central assistance has been released for the project on Meethi river so far.

(b) & (c) The works of widening and deepening of Meethi river in Maharashtra were proposed by the State Government in two phases. Under Phase-I, the urgent work had been completed in June, 2006. For works under Phase-II, a DPR amounting to Rs 1379.35 crore was received from the State Government of Maharashtra Central Water Commission in September, 2010. Subsequently, a technical report prepared by CWPRS, Pune and clarifications of the State Government were also received in November, 2011. The DPR, CWPRS Report and the clarifications of State Government were examined in CWC and comments of CWC have already been sent to the State Government in July, 2012.

Besides, a PIL was earlier filed in High Court of Bombay, which however, had been disposed off by the Hon'ble Court with directions to the petitioners to avail of the alternate remedy before the National Green Tribunal.