

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4044

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

NATIONALISATION OF RIVERS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that Nationalisation of rivers is the only solution for improving agriculture production and the living standards of farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations was also of the view that Parliament could enact laws to regulate the beneficial use and distribution of inter-State river waters among the States and if so, whether there is any proposal to nationalise rivers to solve the inter-State disputes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any plan to adopt some rivers as `national assets` and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to provide 90 per cent funding for projects on such rivers for their conservation and utilisation and if so, the details thereof and the names of the rivers identified for adoption as `national assets`?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) & (c) The Sarkaria Commission on Central-State relations had observed that 'the existing arrangements which allow the States competence in regard to matters in Entry 17, List II- subject, however, to Union's intervention when found necessary in public interest only in inter-State rivers and river valleys – is the best possible method of distributing power between the Union and the States with respect to this highly sensitive and difficult subject'. At present, there is no proposal to nationalize rivers to solve inter-State disputes.

(d) The Central Government has presently no plan to adopt some rivers as "national assets".

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d).