

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3722
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
MYTHICAL SARASWATI RIVER
Choudhary Shri Harish

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made efforts to trace the origin of Saraswati river and has also constituted a committee for this purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether satellite images are of any help in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

- (a) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has studied the palaeochannels in North West India and related them to the channels of River Saraswati. ISRO has not constituted any committee for this purpose.
- (b) An integrated palaeochannel map of River Saraswati has been prepared from the origin in Himalayas to Rann of Kutch. The origin of the mapped course of the River Saraswati palaeochannel in North West India was linked to Himalayan perennial source through Sutlej and Yamuna Rivers.
- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) The work on delineation of entire course of river 'Saraswati' in North West India was carried out using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data along with digital elevation model. Satellite images are multi-spectral, multi-temporal and have advantages of synoptic view, which are useful to detect palaeochannels. The palaeochannels are validated using historical maps, archaeological sites, hydro-geological and drilling data. It was observed that major Harappan sites of Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Banawali and Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Dholavira and Lothal (Gujarat) lie along the River Saraswati.