

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4372
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
SHRINKING OF WETLANDS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the size of flood plains and wetlands are shrinking in size due to construction projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a dedicated mission for preserving the wetland and flood plains of rivers in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) 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, there is no corroborative evidence with this Ministry regarding shrinking of flood plains and wetlands due to construction projects.

(c) to (e) No Sir. However, for conservation of river Ganga, a dedicated mission 'National Mission Clean Ganga', has been set up.