

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4243
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014
SHALLOW RIVER BED
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the river beds of most of the rivers are becoming shallow day by day and as a result of which they easily get flooded and cause loss of life and property during rainy season and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to deepen the bed of various rivers in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

- (a) Aggradation and degradation of river beds is a natural phenomena in alluvial rivers. Siltation in rivers reduces their carrying capacity which is also one of the causes for over topping of banks of the rivers. A Committee headed by Dr.B.K. Mittal former Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) had studied the aspect of siltation pattern in few rivers in India and concluded that siltation is not pronounced and alarming.
- (b) and (c) Deepening of river beds in general by dredging is not an economically viable solution due to associated problems of high cost of maintenance, disposal of excavated earth and non-sustainability of the measures of the de-siltation. The schemes for de-siltation are formulated by the State Governments based on the priority within the States and Government of India provides support which is advisory in nature. However, based on the model studies, only the Government of West Bengal has undertaken de-siltation measures on rivers South Saraswati, Kaliaghai-Kapaleswari-Baghai, Ghatal area, river Ichhamati and improvement of extension of Bani Kantha Khal.
- (d) Does not arise in view of reply parts (b) and (c).