

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4229
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
REVIVAL OF SARASWATI RIVER
Swaraj Smt. Sushma

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the historical Saraswati river has turned into a drain along the 77 km stretch Howrah-Sankrail-Raiganj;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to revived this river;
- (d) if so, the details there of; and.
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Government of West Bengal has informed that historical Saraswati River has lost its draining capacity in most part of its length and now it is in moribund condition. As per the information received from the Government of West Bengal, the river has two limbs – one northward and another southward. The northern part is 34 kms long and the southern one is about 43 kms long. Both the parts join river Hoogly. The Government of West Bengal has further reported that the "Northern portion is comparatively in better health while the southern one has lost its draining capacity".

(c) to (e) The Government of West Bengal has formulated a scheme for revival of the southern part of the river Saraswati with estimated cost of Rs. 32.10 crores. The scheme has been approved for central assistance amounting to Rs. 24.07 crores and central assistance amounting to Rs. 2.72 crores has been released so far.