

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:624

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015

Impact of Dams on e-Flow of Ganga

Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar;Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Nath Shri Chand;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;P. Shri Nagarajan;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Radhakrishnan Shri T.;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that big dams pose major hurdles in maintaining the e-flow of the river Ganga thereby affecting Clean Ganga Mission, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the hydro power projects which affect the e-flow of the Ganga and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ministry has requested different ministries including Environment and Forests and Power to take cautious approach while allowing construction of any new dam on the river and if so, the response thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for uninterrupted flow of water by getting river its ecological flow?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) & (b) The dams constructed earlier on the tributaries of the Ganga river and on the main stem of the Ganga River for irrigation and hydro power projects have either not kept provision for e-flow or e-flow quantity was very small. The need for e-flow has taken strong grounds only recently and as a concept it is continuously evolving. E-flow is the quantum of water that must uninterruptedly flow in the river in all the seasons required for the river to perform all its ecological functions including sustenance of fauna. Various studies show that e-flow quantum should not be less than 50% of the total flow of all the seasons, without any interruption for the river to remain healthy and to be able to perform its ecological functions.

(c) & (d) This Ministry is in discussion with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Ministry of Power to ensure uninterrupted higher e-flow from any hydro-power projects so that the river is neither fragmented nor loses its character throughout its length.
