

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5194  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2014  
SILT IN RIVERS  
Adityanath Shri Yogi

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

- (a) whether the flow and quantity of water in most of the rivers in the country has been affected due to accumulation of silt;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to keep the rivers silt-free and maintain their natural flow?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION;  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE). (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c) Erosion and deposition of silt is a natural process in alluvial rivers. Siltation in some reaches of rivers reduces their carrying capacity. A Committee headed by Dr. B. K. Mittal former Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) had studied the siltation pattern in few rivers in India and concluded that siltation was not pronounced and alarming.

The Committee did not recommend dredging of rivers in general as an economically viable solution of improvement of channel capacity due to associated problems of high cost of maintenance, disposal of excavated earth and non-sustainability of the measures of de-siltation. However, if absolutely necessary, the dredging at the mouth of rivers and in particular reaches of a river has been recommended on the basis of model studies.

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, technical and catalytic in nature. 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.