

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2322
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

STEPS TAKEN TO LOCATE SARASWATI RIVER

2322 # DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has conducted any search to locate the now-extinct Saraswati river, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether budgetary provision for the same is under consideration;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) whether Government proposes to make a budget provision for drinking water/irrigation purpose under the said project in view of the water crisis in Haryana and Rajasthan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has not conducted any search to locate the Saraswati River. However, this Ministry had constituted an Expert Committee to review available information on Palaeo-Channels. The Expert Committee based on Remote Sensing, Geological, Hydro-geological and Archeological evidences has concluded that a large Himalayan born river flowed through the wide channel of Ghaggar-Hakara-Nara from Himalayas to Rann of Kachh. Further, as a part of various studies carried out by CGWB traces of Palaeo-Channels, indicating the existence of river channels in past in parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have been observed.

(b) & (c) At present, there is no budget provision in the Ministry of Jal Shakti for Saraswati River project.

(d) & (e) In view of the reply given in paras (b) & (c) above the questions do not arise.
