

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 35
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Increased threat to Gangetic dolphins due to cruise ships

35. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cruise ships and increased river traffic in river Ganges and its tributaries could threaten the Gangetic dolphins
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has carried out any Environmental Impact Assessment studies in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) and (b) Short-term study conducted in Ganges river indicates that there are some effects of boat traffic on the behaviour of Ganges River Dolphins.
- (c) and (d) The Inland Waterways Authority of India has carried Environmental Impact Assessment studies for National Waterway-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly river system), which included:
 - (i) Study on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Environmental Management Plan and Resettlement Action Plan, 2016.
 - (ii) Oil Spill Contingency Management Plan for National Waterway-1 and Haldia Terminal, 2016.
 - (iii) Risk Assessment and Disaster Management Plan for National Waterway-1, 2018.
 - (iv) Study on the effect of navigational activities on Dolphin in the National waterway-1, 2020.
- (e) In view of above, question does not arise.
