

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2016

Gangetic River Dolphin

3340. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
DR. KULAMANI SAMAL:

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

- (a) whether conservationist groups have expressed concern regarding the survival of Gangetic river dolphins on account of the National Waterways Project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any assessment of the threat to the said species has been made and if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measure to tackle the threat posed by the said project to the species having the Gangetic region as their habitat; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin (2010-2020) has also identified threats to Gangetic dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on dolphin populations.
- (c) and (d) The important strategies and action points for protection of dolphins highlighted in the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan are:
- i. Reduction of incidental mortality through rescue and release efforts
 - ii. Habitat protection and restoration and reduction in environmental pollution.
 - iii. Minimizing daily fluctuations in water flow.
 - iv. Preservation of flood plains for ensuring adequate prey-base.
 - v. Community involvement in river dolphin conservation and management
