

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 787
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.11.2016**

EXISTENCE OF SARASWATI RIVER

**787. SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR:
SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:
COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:
ADV. CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANAGA:
SHRI ALOK SANJAR:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has got scientific evidence of the existence of the River Saraswati and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has formed any expert panel to prove the existence of ancient Saraswati river;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for re-generation of the said river; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Several studies including explorations and excavations have been carried out both by the Governmental and non-governmental organizations along the palaeochannel, represented today by the Ghaggar river in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Some researchers have ascribed this palaeochannel to the Sarasvati river mentioned in Ancient Indian Literature.
- (b) The Ministry of Culture has constituted the Advisory Committee for the Multi-disciplinary & Study of the Sarasvati basin on 16.09.2015 for a period of two years, which has been notified in the Gazettee Notification No. S.O. 3019 (E) dated 6th November 2015 of which a meeting was called under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Culture and Tourism on 25th July 2016.
- (d) No, Madam. No such scheme is formulated in Archaeological Survey of India at present.
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- (e)