

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.110
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2018

Conservation of Aquatic Animals

110. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

- (a) whether aquatic animals such as crocodiles, dolphins and turtles in Chambal river, which borders Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are under threat and are on the verge of extinction due to fall in the water level of the said river;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/scheme formulated for the conservation of the said animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a)&(b) There is a threat to the aquatic animals like Gangetic dolphin, crocodiles, gharials, fresh water turtles etc. in the Chambal River bordering Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to gradual drop in the water level of the river. However, these species are not on the verge of extinction.

A study conducted by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in 2011 suggested that the minimum flow required to sustain the ideal habitat for Gharial in Chambal river is 151-164m³/sec. In December 2017, WII monitored the discharge of the Chambal River, which was found to be 67m³/sec. This is critically low.

- (c) The Ministry has constituted a National Tri-State-Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee (NTRIS-CASMACC), a three tier Committee, to give a fillip to protection, conservation and recovery of critically endangered gharial and its natural habitats in Chambal and Girwa rivers in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Committee prepared a Generic Tri-state Management Plan for the Chambal Sanctuary and accordingly the Ministry has released financial assistance to these three States for the protection and conservation of gharials and other aquatic animals including their habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH).

Further, the Standing Committee of NBWL in its 22nd meeting held on 25th April 2011 while accepting the study report of the Wildlife Institute of India conducted in 2011 has recommended that no new project on Chambal river be considered by the Committee in future.
