

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 113
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.11.2015
AGRAHAYANA 9, 1937 (SAKA)**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SARASWATI RIVER

**113. SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
DR MANOJ RAJORIA:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted an Advisory Committee for a multidisciplinary study of Saraswati River and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner by which the Committee will extend their contribution;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to find out the actual source of the river Ganga and Saraswati; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE, CULTURE AND TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND
MINISTER OF STATE, CIVIL AVIATION**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The Ministry of Culture has constituted the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary & 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. Copy at Annexure-I.
- (b) No, Madam. ASI efforts in the Saraswati project are given at Annexure-II.
- (c) Meeting of Advisory Committee not called so far.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
(Archaeological Survey Of India)
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 6th September, 2015

**Constitution of the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River
Sarasvati**

S.O. 3019(E).— With a view to drawing up a comprehensive programme for the study of the Sarasvati basin, and to identify 16 sites for research and development, the Government of India, Ministry of Culture hereby constitutes a Committee for advising the Government of India from time to time on the terms and conditions specified below:—

Name: The name of the Committee will be the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati. (to be called ACMS or Committee hereinafter)

Composition: The Composition of the Committee will be as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Minister of Culture | —Member |
| 2. Secretary (Culture) | —Member |
| 3. Secretary (Tourism) | —Member |
| 4. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) | —Member |
| 5. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture | —Member |
| 6. Representative of Ministry of Water Resource | —Member |
| 7. Representative of Ministry of Space/ISRO | —Member |
| 8. Representative of ONGC | —Member |
| 9. Representative of Ministry of Environment and Forest | —Member |
| 10. Representative of Ministry of Urban Development | —Member |
| 11. Shri Y.S. Rawat, Director of Archaeology (Retd.) (Representative of)
Government of Gujarat | —Member |
| 12. Chief Engineer, Inter State and Coordination (Representative of Rajasthan) | —Member |
| 13. Additional Chief Secretary (Culture/Archaeology (Representative of)
Government of Haryana | —Member |
| 14. Director (EE), Archaeological Survey of India | —Member Secretary |
| Non-Official Members | |
| 15. Prof. B.B. Lal, New Delhi | —Member |
| 16. Shri Darshan Lal Jain, Haryana | —Member |
| 17. Shri K.N. Dikshit, New Delhi | —Member |
| 18. Dr. VMK Puri, Himachal Pradesh | —Member |
| 19. Shri Prashant Bharadwaj, Haryana | —Member |
| 20. Dr. Amit Jain, New Delhi | —Member |
| 21. Shri Bal Mukund, New Delhi | —Member |
| 22. Dr. K.S. Valdiya, Bangalore | —Member |
| 23. Dr. A.R. Chaudhri, Haryana | —Member |
| 24. Dr. S. Kalyanraman, Chennai | —Member |

Terms of reference: The Committee will advise the Government on the following subjects:

1. To define the Sarasvati river and its basin
2. To identify special items of geotechnical nature for study of the Sarasvati basin and to suggest names of competent agencies/individuals
3. To identify archaeological sites and areas for multidisciplinary research and to assess their potential for development as centres of education and tourism.

Nature and Scope:

Among other things, the Committee will identify subjects of research such as landscape evolution, environmental changes, history of archaeological cultures with special emphasis on the protohistorical era of River Sarasvati in particular and its basin in general by employing remote sensing imagery, integrated GPR survey and stratigraphical as well as scientific investigation by exploration/excavation for collection of data for geotechnical, palaeobiological and archaeological analyses and research.

The Committee will also identify proper agencies/formation of teams from the Archaeological Survey of India, State Governments/Universities and other Scientific or Academic organizations and bodies for carrying out field research in specified/identified zones or places in the area stretching from the Siwaliks to the Rann of Kachchh, Kachchh and the Arabian Sea falling in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Tenure:

The tenure of the Committee will be for two years from the date of its notification.

It shall meet every three months or at anytime as Chairman decides.

Expenses:

Expenses on the travelling and local hospitality in respect of the non-official members will be borne by the Archaeological Survey of India in the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

This issues with the approval of Minister of Culture.

[F.No. 21/1/2015-EE (SHP)]

Dr. RAKESH TEWARI, Director General

SARASVATI HERITAGE PROJECT

The location of Sarasvati in between Yamuna and Sutlej is confirmed by the Rigveda and confirmed through explorers who found a wide, dry bed running through H.P, Haryana and Rajasthan widely known as Ghaggar with ruined habitations along it. With a view to drawing up a comprehensive programme for the study of the Srasvati basin 15 sites were identified in 2002-2003 for research and development by the Government of India Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

The department had already conducted a number of explorations and excavations in this area such as excavations at Kalibangan (Rajasthan) Rakhigarhi (Haryana) Banawali (Haryana), Thanesar (Haryana) Dholavira (Gujarat), etc. in past but these attempts were not in an integrated manner.

To achieve the main objective of the Sarasvati Project it was decided to excavate sites located on the command area of the plaeochannel of Ghaggar. Hence, under the umbrella of this project, excavations were initiated /carried out at following sites:

1. Bhirrana, Haryana	2003-04, 2004-05
2. Hansi, Haryana	2003-04, 2004-05
3. Harsh-ka-Tila, Thenesar, Haryana	2002-03, 2003-04
4. Adi Badri, Haryana	2002-03, 2003-04
5. Baror, Rajasthan	2003-04, 2004-05
6. Chak 86, Rajasthan	2003-04
7. Tarkhanwala Dera, Rajasthan	2003-04
8. Juni Karan, Gujarat	2003-04, 2004-05
9. Dholavira, Gujarat	1990-92, 1994-95, 1996-97 to 1999-2000

Interpretation complexes have also been established at Adi Badri (Haryana) and Dholavira (Gujarat).

Apart from the above following major Harappan sites have also been excavated along the Ghaggar-Hakra alignment or important hubs marked in above project.

1. Rakhigarhi (Haryana)	Excavated by ASI and Deccan College, Pune.
2. Girwad (Haryana)	Excavated by Deccan College, Pune.
3. Farmana (Haryana)	Excavated by Deccan College, Pune.
4. Karanpura (Rajasthan)	Excavated by ASI.
5. Khirsara (Gujarat)	Excavated by ASI.
6. Kanmer (Gujarat)	Excavated by Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur.
7. Binjore (Rajasthan)	Excavated by ASI.