

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4633
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
DROP IN WATER LEVEL IN GANGA - BHAGIRATHI - HOOGLY RIVER
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drop in water level in the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly river has spelled disaster for the Kolkata Port including the Haldia dock;
- (b) if so, whether the drop has been caused by scanty rainfall and diversion of water in the Upper reaches of the river for Tehri Dam;
- (c) if so, whether high-level inter-Ministerial group of the Union Government has reviewed the situation and decided to keep a close watch on it; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

- (a) Yes Sir. Drop in water level in the Bhagirathi-Hoogly river system at Farakka has become a cause of serious concern for Kolkata Port Trust.
- (b) Drop in water is obviously due to scanty rainfall in Ganga-basin during monsoon as well as during winter months.
- (c) Kolkata Port Trust has apprised of the alarming situation to Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways have communicated long term and short term contingency plans to Ministry of Water Resources.
- (d) Constant monitoring of the river health, especially navigable depth over the critical stretches is being carried out.