

Digging and Cleaning of Markanda River

*22 **Sh. RAM KARAN (Shahbad):**

Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

- a) whether it is a fact that the Baba Markanda river flows through the Shahabad Assembly Constituency (District Kurukshetra) and the work of digging and cleaning of the said river has not been carried out for the last many years; if so the reasons therefor;
- b) whether it is also a fact that due to reasons like not conducting the cleaning and digging work in rainy season the river flows over the danger mark and floods the whole area; and 1
- c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to prevent the said problem in future togetherwith the details thereof?

Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana.

- a) Yes Sir. The reason being that the annual action plan for cleaning and digging is prepared for channels and drains but not for rivers. Moreover, rivers are of meandering nature having no defined section like Channels and Drains.
- b) No Sir. The danger mark is crossed due to devastating flood and receipt of extra water which is well accommodated in the free board. The flooding occurred due to gaps in the existing bunds, as the bunds are never constructed for 100% length of river whereas for channels and Drains, 100% embankment is undertaken after land acquisition. The river land belong to private land owners and is never acquired. Moreover, bunds along the river are only constructed in that length wherever the river flows near the abadi area for its protection and where land is made available by the farmers.
- c) Sir, earlier proposals were approved by the Govt. to plug the gaps in existing bunds and prevent the flooding, but it could not mature due to reluctance of land owners who did not give their land. However, now the Government is planning for cleaning and desilting of rivers wherever required, by co-ordinating with the Mining Department and also construct the bunds as per requirement/demand after assessing availability.