

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 26.07.2010

ANSWERED ON

OPPOSITION TO LOWER SUBANSIRI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT .

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Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING POWER be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government is aware that the Umbrella organization of various groups and local villagers in Assam are opposing the 2000MW Lower Subansiri hydro-electric project by NHPC and have called for complete halt to the ongoing construction till all clearances required for the protection of the ecological and topographical concerns of the downstream areas are addressed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NHPC has met all the requirements to go ahead with the dam project;

(d) if so, the details of the declaration of NHPC about downstream areas security of people and environment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b) :A number of representations have been received from various organizations related to the Downstream Impact Study of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project and stoppage of the main dam works till the completion of the study.

(c) to (e) :Before the start of the project, all statutory clearances including environment clearance have been obtained by NHPC. As part of the environment clearance, a comprehensive Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Study has been carried out. The EIA study covers all the environmental aspects and baseline data with respect to meteorology, geology, seismology, water quality, land use pattern, terrestrial ecology, wildlife, aquatic ecology, fisheries and socio-economic aspects. Based on the EIA study and Environment Management Plan (EMP) report, Ministry of Environment & Forests accorded the environment clearance. Further, Disaster Management Plan (DMP) is a part of EMP of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project.

However, keeping in view the concerns of people, a comprehensive study has been awarded to an Expert Group from University of Guwahati, University of Dibrugarh & IIT, Guwahati to assess the impact on downstream due to Subansiri Lower HE Project in May 2008. The aims of the study are as under :-

i)To address critically the positive and negative environmental impacts of the Lower Subansiri Dam Project in the downstream area in Assam.

ii)To assess the distribution pattern of these impacts in area downstream, at village level (environmental, social and economic impacts).

iii)To suggest a management plan for direct impact zones, due to changing hydrological and other environmental conditions.

iv)To suggest socio-economic development plans for the affected village/people.

v)To develop a deliberative mechanism to minimize downstream impacts

The draft report of the Expert Group has been received by NHPC recently. As and when final report of the Expert Group is received, action will be taken by NHPC to implement the same. The implementation of these recommendations will ensure security of the people and environment in the downstream of the project.