

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
HYDEL PROJECTS IN BRAHMAPUTRA .

1068

SHRI R.C. SINGH

Will the Minister of COALCOALCOALWATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that over 150 hydel projects are proposed to be set up in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Chief Minister of Assam has expressed the widespread concern and anxiety in Assam with the apprehension that once these projects are completed there would be flash floods in the downstream areas when there is sudden discharge of excessive waters after heavy rainfall;
- (d) if so, whether the State has suggested that the Central Water Commission should immediately start a comprehensive study on the problem; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) In the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra, three Hydro-electric Projects (above 25 MW) with total installed capacity of 2710 MW are under construction in Arunachal Pradesh. Further, 82 Hydro-electric Projects (above 25 MW) with total installed capacity of 37794.5 MW have been allotted to Central and Private Sector by Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam has raised his concern and apprehension about the downstream impacts due to construction of big dams in Arunachal Pradesh in the upstream reaches of Brahmaputra and suggested that the Central Water commission should immediately start a comprehensive and cumulative river basin study in the North Eastern Region. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources on the directions of Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in August 2009 to evolve a suitable framework to Guide and accelerate the development of Ghydropower in the North East Region (NER), IMG submitted its report to Prime Minister's Office in February 2010. IMG's report inter-alia recommended that the sub basin wise EIA studies may be taken up in major tributaries of Brahmaputra. It was also decided that CWC shall conduct the studies for Subansiri sub basin and Siang sub basin in consultation with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Ministry of Environment & Forest (MoEF). Studies in other basins may also be taken up subsequently by CWC. The Terms of References (ToR) for such studies will be provided by MoEF. The draft ToRs for Siang and Subansiri sub basins for taking up Environmental Impact Assessment studies are under finalization in Ministry of Environment and Forests.