

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON

RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR HIMALAYAN RIVERS .

1075

Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri

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

- (a) whether the World Bank study has suggested setting up of River Basin Development Authority and upstream storage of water to overcome growing problem of silt in Himalayan Rivers;
- (b) if so, the details of the study; and
- (c) the action taken by Government thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. In 2007, at the request of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the Government of Uttarakhand, the World Bank commissioned the River Basin Development Optimization Study. The study looked at various aspects of river basin development optimization, including upstream storage and sediment management, among many other issues. There is discussions of various options for institutional arrangements which include (but, again, are not limited to) a river basin development authority and the development of upstream storage where feasible. The key recommendations of the study are as follows:

1. Establish uniform and easily available data sets for hydrology, topography, sedimentation, ecology, and social and economic activity.
2. Standardise methods for energy assessment (not 90% dependable year) and Design Flood Analysis (using extreme rainfall methods)
3. Implement a basin operations model for real-time scheduling and for flood forecasting.
4. Reassess issues associated with the proposed storage at Khab to determine a decision making process, and develop an action plan to move forward.
5. Provide a co-ordinated approach to sedimentation at the basin level which could include data sharing and cooperative research, consideration of alternative design assumptions such as cost-benefit of removing smaller than the current minimum 0.2 mm particles, and improvements to sediment control during construction.
6. Develop Master Plans for infrastructure (roads, transmission) to optimise benefits and minimise costs and impacts.
7. Undertake basin wide environmental and social assessment to determine high value areas in basins where hydropower is planned.
8. Develop plans to collect relevant data and identify objectives across the two basins for the eventual establishment of sustainability flows.
9. Develop a basin-wide benefit sharing options and priorities paper and incorporate requirements with Environmental Impact Assessment/Social Impact Assessment, social analysis requirements and consultation processes for individual projects.
10. Developers to consider aggregating benefit-sharing expenses for large ticket items and state

governments to consider contributions from the 12% free power.

11. Develop basin-wide plan, with sequenced priorities linked to water management issues for developers (e.g. upstream) and local input

12. Identify basin-wide CAT opportunities projects (e.g. Satluj study)

(c) The State Government have not reported on the action taken by them on the recommendations contained in the World Bank Study.