

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 07.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**WATER FLOW IN BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER .**

1239

Shri Parshottam Rupala

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware about the fact that water flow in Brahmaputra river is diminishing year by year due to Chinese activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the average water flow count in the river for the last three years; and
- (c) the details of corrective steps taken by the Ministry to curb the Chinese activities in the river?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS. ( SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) The total annual yield observed at the gauge and discharge site, established in December 2006, nearest to the border of India and China during 2007 to 2009 is 72.8 BCM, 98.6 BCM and 76.3 BCM respectively. There are seasonal/annual variations in river flows due to meteorological/climatological factors. Therefore, the hydrological data available near Indian border with China (Tibet) is too short and insufficient for drawing any conclusion about the trend in river flows other than annual variation due to the climatological factor.

(c) The issue of Chinese activities on river Tsangpo (Brahmaputra in India) impacting the flow of water in the downstream areas in India has been taken up with the Chinese authorities at the highest level. The Chinese side has categorically denied that it is constructing a dam on the Brahmaputra River for the purposes of water diversion.

During the visit of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister to Beijing in April, 2010, the Chinese Foreign Minister shared information about construction activity at the Zangmu hydropower station which was widely reported in the Indian media. He stated that Zangmu is a small project with its main function being generation of power and not water supply. He also stated that the power station will not store and regulate the volume of water and this would not have an adverse impact on the downstream areas.

The matter was also raised during the recent India- China Strategic Dialogue held between Foreign Secretary and the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister in November 2010, during which the Chinese side conveyed that the Zangmu power "station has very small capacity and does not divert river from the mainstream. It will not reduce flow to the lower reaches. It will also not have an impact on the environment. During construction and operation of the station, we will ensure that we will carry out sound management so that it does not negatively impact on the downstream." Government keeps a constant watch on all developments in China having bearing on India's interest and takes necessary measures to protect them.