

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1012
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Environmental concerns over the Brahmaputra Dam Project by China

1012. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started any evaluation of the transboundary environmental impact of the Brahmaputra dam project that has been built by China, particularly its effects on biodiversity and ecosystems downstream in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the measures that Government is planning or taking to ensure that the ecological balance and livelihoods of communities dependent on the Brahmaputra River are preserved in light of this project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b): Government of India has taken note of China's announcement of a mega dam project approved on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (upper reaches of the Brahmaputra) River in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Government carefully monitors all developments relating to the Brahmaputra river, including plans by China to develop hydropower projects, and takes necessary measures to protect the interests of the Nation.

Various issues relating to trans-border rivers are discussed with China under the ambit of an institutionalized Expert Level Mechanism which was established in 2006, as well as through diplomatic channels. As a lower riparian state with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, Government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream states are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas. The Cumulative Impact Assessment and Carrying Capacity Studies have also been undertaken on the major tributaries of the Brahmaputra River in North-East India, so as to plan effective strategy to mitigate the possible ecological and socio-economic impacts of Hydro-electric Projects in the river basin.
