

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3106**  
ANSWERED ON- 27/03/2025

**CHINA'S HYDROPOWER PROJECT ON YARLUNG TSANGPO AND ITS  
IMPACT ON INDIA**

3106. DR. FAUZIA KHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has approved the construction of a mega hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo, despite concerns raised by India regarding its impact on downstream water flow and ecological stability;
- (b) if so, the details of diplomatic representations made by India and China's response thereto; and
- (c) the expected consequences on water availability, silt deposition, and bio-diversity in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, along with mitigation strategies proposed by Government?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) 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 Tibet. Government carefully monitors all developments relating to the Brahmaputra river, including plans by China to develop hydropower projects, and takes necessary measures to protect our interests, including preventive and corrective measures to safeguard life and livelihood of Indian citizens residing in downstream areas.

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. Following the recent announcement by China of the mega dam project, Government has

registered its concerns with Chinese side on 30 December 2024, including on the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries.

The issue was also raised during the visit of Foreign Secretary to Beijing for a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister mechanism between India and China on January 26-27, 2025. During the visit, India and China agreed to hold an early meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism to discuss resumption of provision of hydrological data and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers. Government of India remains engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests.

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