

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2167
ANSWERED ON – 07/08/2025

CHINA'S MEGA HYDROPOWER PROJECT ON BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

2167. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK
SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has commenced construction of a massive hydropower project on the Brahmaputra River, near Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) whether China's mega-dam poses a serious threat to India's interests and could endanger local tribes and livelihoods in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (c) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with China to ensure that its upstream activities do not negatively affect the interests of downstream nations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a to d) Government of India has taken note of reports about commencement of construction of mega dam project by China on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (upper reaches of the Brahmaputra) River in Tibet. This project was first made public as far back as 1986 and since then, preparations have been underway in China. 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 institutionalised 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, including on the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream states are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

The need for cooperation on trans-border rivers, including resumption of provision of hydrological data by the Chinese side has been highlighted by the Government in several bilateral interactions with China including during the recent visit of EAM to China from 14-16 July 2025 for the SCO Foreign Ministers' Meeting.
