

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3287**  
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

**CONCERNS OVER CONSTRUCTION OF YARLUNG TSANGPO DAM IN CHINA**

3287. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM

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

- (a) whether Government has raised concerns with China regarding strategic and environmental threats posed by the Yarlung Tsangpo dam, if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether any impact assessment has been conducted on the risk of sudden water release causing floods in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether China has consistently shared hydrological data with India as per the 2013 MoU, if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether any plan has been devised to build a counter-dam on the Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh, if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether US was briefed on India's concerns regarding China's gigantic dam during January 2025 talks with the US NSA, if so, details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a to e) Government of India has taken note of reports about commencement of the construction of a mega dam project by China on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet. It was most recently taken up by External Affairs Minister with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to India. 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 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 over activities in upstream areas 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 them.

India and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on provision of hydrological information on Yaluzangbu/Brahmaputra River in Flood Season in 2002 which was renewed in 2008, 2013 and 2018. Further, another MoU for the provision of flood season hydrological information of the Langqen Zangbo/Sutlej River in Flood Season by China to India was signed in 2005 and was renewed in 2010 and 2015 for another five years. The Chinese side did not provide

the hydrological information with respect to Brahmaputra and Sutlej Rivers in 2017. The issue was taken up with the Chinese side, who had conveyed that the non-provision of data was due to technical reasons. The MoU on Brahmaputra has expired on 05th June, 2023 and the MoU on Sutlej expired on 5th November, 2020. The hydrological data of Brahmaputra river has been suspended with effect from June 2023 and the hydrological data of Sutlej river has not been received since 2022.

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 and that of the Chinese Foreign Minister to India on 18 August 2025.

Upper Siang Multipurpose Project (11200 MW) and Siang Lower HE Project (2700 MW) are projects which have been proposed in Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh.

\*\*\*\*\*