

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1744**  
ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

**UNUSUAL CHANGES IN WATER OF SIANG RIVER**

1744. SHRI RAMEN DEKA  
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA  
ADV. CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANAGA

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR  
SHRI NINONG ERING

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any unusual changes have been observed in the water of the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh which flows from Southern Tibet as the Yarlung Tsangpo and continues as Brahmaputra in Assam and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any survey/assessment of the cause of these changes has been made or is being made and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated steps to collect information about these changes including the efforts to divert the course of river and to raise this issue through diplomatic channels bilaterally with China and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/ being taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, change in colour of water in Siang River was noticed on 10/11/2017 at Hydrological Observation site Tuting, by Central Water Commission in Arunachal Pradesh. The cause of such change in colour of river water appears to be due to excess silt. Water samples of River Siang from Tuting and Passighat H.O site of CWC were collected and analysed in water quality laboratories of CWC. The analysis report shows that all observed water quality parameters are within permissible limits as per BIS 10500:2012 drinking water standard except turbidity.

In addition, results of water quality tests conducted by Public Health Engineering and Water Supply Dept., Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh from samples of Pasighat shows turbidity and Iron limits in excess of permissible limits. Beside this, Physico- chemical analysis of water samples collected from Siang river across Pasighat and Jonai conducted by NERIWALM shows higher concentration of Aluminium and Iron beyond acceptable and permissible limit for drinking water.

The Change in water level was also observed by CWC at Tuting and it was found that there was decrease in flow of water at Tuting site from 18.11.17 to 19.11.17 (about 1.96 meters in level and approximate 50% drop in water flow). Thereafter, flow got restored to the previous level.

The reason for change in water of river Siang may possibly be because of any land slide/earthquake/any other activity in upstream region of Tuting site across the international border with China for which information is not available. Exact Reason is not known as yet.

(c) & (d) During the recent visit of Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China to India on 11 December 2017, matters concerning trans-border rivers, including the recent reports about unusual changes in the water of Siang River, were raised with the Chinese side.

As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the River, Government has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, including at the highest levels of the Government of the People's Republic of China, and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

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