

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2920
ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

BLACK WATER OF BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

2920. SHRI BHAGWANT MANN
PROF. SADHU SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government has shown concern on the Brahmaputra water turning black and directed the Ministry of Water Resources to find out its reasons and take appropriate action in this direction and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Assam has given any assertive assurance in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey in collaboration with China has been conducted to ascertain the reasons behind this; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) Yes, Madam. Accordingly, water samples were collected and tested by Central Water Commission (CWC) during the month of November, 2017 and December, 2017 at TUTING and Passighat Hydrological observation sites on Siang River and found to be highly turbid in nature. 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 North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) shows higher concentration of Aluminium and Iron beyond acceptable and permissible limit for drinking water. 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

(b) Water Resources Department Assam has issued necessary directions to the concerned field level officers for collecting the water sample at weekly basis and conduct the testing of the samples. Assam Pollution Control Board has also analysed the water quality of river Brahmaputra and analysis report indicated high level of turbidity and flow of high silt into the river.

(c) & (d) No, Madam. However, 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. Government has seen media reports drawing possible linkage between the recent deterioration in the quality of Siang/Brahmaputra River and the infrastructure construction activities on the River in China. In this regard, Government has noted Chinese Foreign Ministry's statements denying any such link and stating that the situation was caused by an earthquake in the region and was not a man-made incident. 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 at the highest levels, and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.