

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2091
ANSWERED ON 08.03.2018

DARKENING OF SIANG RIVER

2091. SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints on unusual darkening of Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh before meeting with Brahmaputra river in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any specific survey on the issue and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to take up the matter with China at the earliest?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a to c) Yes, Madam. Government has received information regarding contamination of Siang River through different sources. Water samples collected and tested by Central Water Commission (CWC) and North Eastern Research Institute for Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) during the month of November, 2017 and December, 2017 at Tuting and Passighat Hydrological observation sites on Siang river were found to be highly turbid in nature. Presence of Aluminium (Al) & Iron (Fe) was also found to be beyond the permissible limit for drinking water as per IS 10500:2012. Though, the contamination has reduced significantly over the period since December 2017, but it was still beyond permissible limit on 14/15 January, 2018 as per IS 10500:2012.

(d) Ministry of External Affairs, GoI has informed that as a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, Government of India 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. The issue was also taken up by Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his recent visit to India on 11 December 2017. Government intends to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests.

