

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3028
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2018

DIVERSION OF BRAHMAPUTRA

3028. SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China is considering digging a 1,000 km. long tunnel to divert the water of the Brahmaputra river from Tibet to its dry Xinjiang region and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether after construction, it will hit water flow in Brahmaputra which could cause drought in India's north east and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether in 2010, China had assured India that it had no plans to build upstream dams in Tibet after Delhi expressed its concern and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that China is going back from its assurances; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(GEN. (DR.) V.K. SINGH (RETD.))

(a) to (e) Government has seen media reports in this regard. Government has also noted that the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a public statement rejected such media reports as untrue.

Government, in close cooperation with various State governments which are users of the waters of Brahmaputra River, continues to carefully monitor the water flow in the River for early detection of abnormality so that corrective and preventive measures are taken to safeguard livelihood of peoples of these States of Union of India.

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.

The Chinese side has conveyed to us on several occasions that they are only undertaking run-of-the-river hydropower projects which do not involve diversion of the waters of the Brahmaputra.

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. We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests.
