

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1488
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

DIVERSION OF RIVER BRAHMAPUTRA

1488. SHRI NINONG ERING

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

- (a) whether the river Brahmaputra (known as Siang) in Arunachal Pradesh is being diverted by China towards their Xinjiang Province by constructing a 1,000 km. tunnel and if so, the details and the facts thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to counter the move as per International Waters Treaty, if any; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the issue of frequent floods being caused by this river?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) As per the information provided by MEA, 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.

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

Various issues relating to trans-border rivers, including construction of hydro-power dams, are discussed with China under the ambit of an institutionalized Expert Level Mechanism which was established in 2006.

(c) As per constitutional provisions, the subject of Flood Management including erosion control falls within the purview of the States. The flood management & anti-erosion schemes are planned, investigated and implemented by the State Governments with their own resources as per priority within the State. The Union Government renders technical guidance and promotional financial assistance to States. Government of India launched Flood Management Programme (FMP) since XI Plan for providing central assistance to the State Governments for taking up works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, flood proofing works, restoration of damaged flood management works and anti-sea erosion works.
