

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.175**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.7.2018

**CONTAMINATION OF SIAN RIVER**

175. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has taken up with China the issue of contamination of water Sian river in Arunachal Pradesh, a tributary of the mighty Brahmaputra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether her Ministry was coordinating with the water resources ministry while referring to existing mechanisms between India and China to deal with issues pertaining to water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Following reports about contamination of water in Siang River, the issue was raised with the Chinese side on several occasions, including by External Affairs Minister with her Chinese counterpart. In this regard, Government has noted statements by Chinese authorities stating that the situation was caused by an earthquake in the region and was not a man-made incident.

Government continues to carefully monitor the water flow in trans-border rivers, including Brahmaputra River and its tributaries, for early detection of any abnormality so that corrective and preventive measures are taken to safeguard livelihood of the people in these regions. Ministry of External Affairs closely works with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in this regard.

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.

Government intends to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interest, including through an institutionalized Expert Level Mechanism which was established in 2006.

Following Prime Minister's visit to Wuhan (China) for the Informal Summit with the Chinese President in April 2018, the two sides renewed the MoU on provision of hydrological information for Brahmaputra River during flood season by China to India. Chinese side has since started providing hydrological information for Brahmaputra River.

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