GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2068
ANSWERED ON-11.12.2014

Dam on Brahmaputra by China

2068. Shri Alok Tiwari

Shri Arvind Kumar Singh

(a) whether China has completed construction of dam on Brahmaputra river which is against the interests of Indians and India as per the recent report;
(b) whether Government has taken up the matter with Chinese Government;
(c) if so, the details thereof along with the response of China thereon; and
(d) whether Government would again take up the matter with China to force that no other dam is constructed in future, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The 'Outline of the 12th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' indicates that three hydropower projects on the main stream of the Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region have been approved for implementation by the Chinese authorities. According to reports, one power generating unit of the Zangmu Hydro electric project has been operationalised in November 2014.

In 2006, the two countries established an Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-border Rivers (ELM). The 8th Meeting of the India-China ELM was held in New Delhi in June 2014. During Vice President's visit to China from June 26-30, 2014, the two countries signed the Implementation Plan for Provision of Hydrological Information of the Brahmaputra River in Flood Season by China to India.

During the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to India in September 2014, the matter of further strengthening bilateral cooperation on trans-border rivers was discussed and the Joint Statement issued during the visit stated that "The two sides will further strengthen cooperation through the Expert-Level Mechanism on the provision of flood-season hydrological data and emergency management, and exchange views on other issues of mutual interest."

Government carefully monitors all developments on the Brahmaputra River. As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the River, India has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, including at the highest levels of the Government of the People's Republic of China. India has urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

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