GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-195
ANSWERED ON-04.01.2018

Contamination of Brahmaputra water by China

195 . Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China has constructed/is constructing many dams on tributaries of Brahmaputra river due to which the water of Siyang river has got contaminated and local people are forced to drink this water which is causing diseases and other difficulties to them;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect its interest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 195 REGARDING “CONTAMINATION OF BRAHMAPUTRA WATER BY CHINA” FOR ANSWER ON 04.01.2018

(a) to (c) Government has seen media reports drawing possible linkage between the recent deterioration in the quality of Siang/Brahmaputra River and the infrastructure construction activities on the River in China. In this regard, Government has noted Chinese Foreign Ministry’s recent statements denying any such link and stating that the situation was caused by an earthquake in the region and was not a man-made incident.

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 river Brahmaputra 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 issue was also taken up by me with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his recent visit to India on 11 December 2017.

We intend 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.