

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3265
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2022

CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ON BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER BY CHINA

3265. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether China has constructed many big dams at the source of river Brahmaputra;
- (b) if so, whether Government is observing or studying downstream impact of these big dams;
- (c) whether Government is researching the manner in which these dams affect river Brahmaputra; and
- (d) whether Government is taking any precautions towards this issue since the release of water from dams by China in the monsoon inundates the already flooded Brahmaputra river and Assam has been grappling with massive floods for last few monsoons?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (d) Government carefully monitors all developments relating to the Brahmaputra river, including plans by China to develop hydropower projects.

A hydropower project at Zangmu was declared fully operational in October 2015.

In its 12th Five Year Plan for the period 2011-2015, China planned to develop three more hydropower projects (Jiacha, Dagu and Jiexu) on the main stream of Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region. Of the three, the first unit of the hydropower project at Jiacha was operationalised in August 2020. It is understood that the Dagu Hydropower project is partly operationalised. In March 2021, China adopted its 14th Five Year Plan which mentions plans for hydropower development on the lower reaches of the Brahmaputra river.

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. Government has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream states are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

India and China have established an Expert-Level Mechanism on trans-border rivers in 2006. Various issues relating to trans-border rivers are discussed with China under the ambit of this institutionalized Expert-Level Mechanism as well as through diplomatic channels. We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interests.

Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them.
