

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1012

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008

RATIONAL USE OF WATER RESOURCES BY CHINA

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the China has assured the protection and rational use of water resources in the trans Himalayan rivers that flow to India from the upper reaches of the Himalayas on the Chinese side as reported in the Times of India dated January 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any bilateral understanding has been reached or agreement signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)- (d) During Prime Minister's visit to China from 13 to 15 January 2008, he and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao discussed bilateral cooperation on trans-border rivers. They welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism in September 2007 in Beijing. Premier Wen conveyed that China has been making efforts to cooperate with India in this area, including in disaster prevention and relief and is prepared to cooperate further in this area. The two Prime Ministers jointly stated, "The two sides also welcome their efforts to set an example on trans- border rivers by commencing cooperation in 2002. The Indian side highly appreciates the assistance extended by China on the provision of flood season hydrological data which has assisted India in ensuring the safety and security of its population along these rivers. The two sides agree that this has contributed positively to building mutual understanding and trust."

An MOU between the Ministries of Water Resources of India and China upon provision of hydrological information of the Yalungzangbu/Brahmaputra River in flood season by China to India was signed in January 2002. In April 2005, an agreement was reached on provision of similar data by China to India during the flood season in respect of River Sutlej.