

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6506

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

PANCHESHWAR AND SAPTAKOSHI MULTI PURPOSE PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the Pancheshwar and Saptakoshi multi-purpose projects being implemented jointly with Government of Nepal;
- (b) whether there are any differences on these projects between India and Nepal;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to resolve these differences; and
- (d) the estimated cost of these projects and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project: India and Nepal signed the Mahakali Treaty on Integrated Development of Mahakali River including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project in February, 1996. The Treaty focuses on implementation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. Required field investigations in respect of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project have been completed by a Joint Project Office (JPO-PI) in 2002 (except for some confirmatory tests). But mutually acceptable Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Pancheshwar Project could not be finalized due to differences on some of the technical and financial aspects of the Project such as, location of re-regulating dam, stage based development, cost chargeable to irrigation, etc. The two sides are engaged in bilateral discussions to resolve the differences. However, due to political situation in Nepal over the past few years and the continuing political transition in Nepal, it has not been possible to conclude these discussions. During the 3rd meeting of Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held from 29.09.08 to 01-10-08 at Kathmandu (Nepal), it was decided to set up Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) at the earliest for the development, execution and operation of Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project. During the 5th meeting of JCWR held on 20-22 November, 2009 at Pokhara (Nepal), draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of PDA were finalized.

Sapta Kosi High Dam Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme: To undertake detailed field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme jointly with Government of Nepal, a Joint Project Office (JPO-SKSKI) was set up at Biratnagar in August, 2004. The completion of the field investigations have been delayed due to a variety of reasons including suspension of field activities at Kosi High Dam site since May, 2007. The Government of India has requested the Government of Nepal to create a secure environment and provide adequate security for the earliest possible resumption of suspended investigations. In pursuance of India's request, the Government of Nepal has recently set up a police post at Barakhshetra. The Government of Nepal has also put in place arrangement for mobile armed police force that has begun patrolling the area on regular basis. During the 2nd meeting of JSTC held on 30-31 March, 2010 at Kathmandu (Nepal), the Government of Nepal advised JPO-SKSKI to resume the suspended field works.

(d) The estimated costs and the time frame for completion of aforesaid projects would be known only after finalization of the Detailed Project Reports of these projects and acceptance by the two Governments.