

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
DAM ON BRAHMAPUTRA
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is working on an ambitious plan to divert Brahmaputra from the point of the `Great Bend` to its territory by digging a tunnel in its part of Himalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps that are being taken by the Government to prevent any disturbance in the flow of the mighty rivers to our territory?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

(a) & (b): Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, including during the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to China. The Chinese side has said that such reports are inconsistent with the facts. In this context in November 2009, the Foreign Ministry of China clarified that China is a responsible country and would never do anything to undermine any other country's interest. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.