

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5061  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010  
HYDRO POWER PROJECTS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there are growing concerns about the social and environmental impact of various hydro power projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any studies have been conducted to find out the possibility to harness hydro power without building the dams; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): The main concerns about the social and environmental impact of various hydro power projects are Rehabilitation and Resettlement(R&R) of displaced people due to submergence, impact on flora and fauna, impact on downstream areas, impact on bio-diversity of area, impact on ecology, etc. These concerns are being looked into by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) while according forest and environment clearances. The hydro projects are taken up for construction only after necessary clearances are accorded by MoEF.

(c) & (d) : Hydro power can not be harnessed without construction of a dam/barrage/weir, which is an integral and essential part of any hydro power development project so as to store water in the reservoir and/or to divert the same through a suitable water conductor system to power house for power generation. However, power houses built on canals utilizing the canal drop may not require any dam structure.