

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1689
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2010
IMPACT OF MEGA DAMS
Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any survey/assessment of the impact of the mega dams for hydro power generation in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : Construction of hydel projects is taken up only after obtaining all necessary statutory and non-statutory clearances, including Environment and Forest Clearances. After the allocation of the projects, extensive Survey & Investigation activities are carried out by the concerned project proponents based on which Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are prepared and submitted before Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno Economic Clearance (TEC). Before according concurrence, CEA examines various technical aspects including the dam safety and design of structures in consultation with Central Water Commission (CWC) and Geological Survey of India (GSI). Moreover, Environment and Forest clearances are given only after carrying out detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies as per the Terms of Reference (TOR) prescribed by MoEF. EIA studies are quite comprehensive and these include rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced persons due to submergence, impact on flora and fauna, impact on bio-diversity of area, impact on ecology etc. Moreover, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources has inter-alia recommended that the sub-basin Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies may be taken up in major tributaries of Brahmaputra. Comprehensive basin-wise Environment Impact Assessment studies for Lohit Basin has already been awarded by MoEF to WAPCOS. CWC is carrying out similar studies for Siang and Subansiri Basin in consultation with CEA and MoEF.

Further, in Arunachal Pradesh majority of the hydro projects allotted by the State Govt. are to be implemented as run-of-river (ROR) schemes involving small storages which do not require construction of mega dams and therefore they have a very limited role in either aggravating or mitigating floods in downstream areas.