

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:281

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

CONSTRUCTION OF DAM BY CHINA ON BRAHMAPUTRA

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

- (a) whether China has accelerated construction work of dam and tunnel on river Brahmaputra;
- (b) if so, the present status of the project and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the adverse effects on the development of North-Eastern Region as a result of such construction;
- (d) whether any agreement has been signed recently between India and China on strategic issues; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) to (c) Government is aware of the construction activity at Zangmu, on the main Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) River in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Government has taken up this matter with the Chinese side, including during the recent visit to India by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in December 2010. The Chinese Premier said that China's development of upstream areas will be on the basis of scientific planning and study and will never harm downstream interests. The Chinese side has also conveyed that the construction at Zangmu is that of a small power project, which will not store water or regulate the volume of water, and therefore, will not have an adverse impact on the downstream areas. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.

(d) & (e) During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in December 2010, the two sides agreed to establish a Strategic Economic Dialogue to enhance macro-economic policy coordination, to promote exchanges and interactions and join hands to address issues and challenges appearing in bilateral economic development and enhance economic cooperation.