

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:53

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

CONSTRUCTION OF DAM ON RIVER BRAHMAPUTRA

Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that China is planning to divert the course of river Brahmaputra by constructing a dam on it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Chinese Government;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of China thereto; and
- (e) the extent to which this step of China is likely to affect India's needs particularly the water needs of North-Eastern States?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) 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. Government has ascertained that this is a run-of-the-river hydro-electric project, which does not store water and will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India. A large proportion of the catchment of the Brahmaputra is within Indian territory. It is important that the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam of India harness and utilize the waters of the Brahmaputra. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it.