

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5856
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
INDO-NEPAL AGREEMENT ON HIMALAYAN RIVERS
Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government and Nepal Government had agreed to take up Karnali, Jalkundi and Bhalubandh projects for channelizing the waters of the Himalayan rivers for power generation and irrigation purposes;
- (b) if so, the status of the work on projects since their approval in the year 1954;
- (c) the reasons for not undertaking the desired work inspite of the fact that these projects were conceived to control the floods in Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to initiate talks with the Government of Nepal for the completion of the said projects expeditiously; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (e) Status of Karnali, Jalkundi and Bhalubhang projects are as under:

Karnali Multipurpose Project (10800 MW)

Government of Nepal prepared Feasibility Report of Karnali Multipurpose Project on river Karnali (Ghaghra in India) in 1989 and submitted to the Government of India. Thereafter two Committees, namely, Committee on Karnali (CK) and Karnali Coordination Committee (KCC) were constituted to look into the various aspects of the feasibility report. Despite several rounds of discussions, key parameters of the project could not be mutually agreed. Last (9th) meeting of Karnali Coordination Committee (KCC) was held in March, 1992. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is of the view that let the Government of Nepal take initiative to place this project on the bilateral agenda.

Jalkundi Dam Project

With the approval of the Government of Nepal, survey work of Jalkundi Dam Project was undertaken from 1955. The project did not progress beyond the survey stage as its cost benefit ratio was not favourable.

West Rapti (Bhalubhang) Multipurpose Project

Following the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal in December, 1977, the two sides decided to meet to finalize the arrangements to prepare detailed Project report of a multipurpose project on river West Rapti (Rapti in India) T Bhalubhang in Nepal. However, there could not be agreement on the terms of reference for the consultants. Recently, during the visit of Prime minister of Nepal to India in September, 2008, the two Governments agreed to construct a Multipurpose Hydro-electric project on river West Rapti river at Naumure, about 12 km upstream of Bhalubhang. The Central Water Commission has carried out the pre-feasibility study of the project, which is being examined by the Government of Nepal.