

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1696  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011  
DIVERSION OF THE BRAHMAPUTRA  
Sule Supriya

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government of China has ruled out any plan to divert the Brahmaputra river's waters to tackle the water shortages, even as hydropower industry groups have renewed calls on the Government to lift a suspension on dam projects on the river's fast-flowing upper and middle reaches to address a power crisis;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) As informed by Ministry of External Affairs, the Chinese Premier during his visit to India in December 2010 conveyed that China's development of upstream areas of Brahmaputra will be on the basis of scientific planning and study and will never harm downstream interests. The Chinese side has also conveyed that the on-going project at Zangmu on Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) will not store water or regulate the volume of water, and therefore, will not have an adverse impact on the downstream areas. The Government has ascertained from its own sources that Zangmu project is a run-of-the-river hydro-electric project, which does not store water and will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India. In October 2011, Vice Minister of Chinese Ministry of Water Resources also stated that the Chinese Government has no plan to conduct any diversification project on Yarlung Zangbo River. During his interaction with Prime Minister in Bali in November 2011, Chinese Premier reiterated that China has always acted responsibly with respect to development and use of trans-border rivers and China takes into full account the impact of such development on the lower reach countries.