

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7020
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
LOWER SUBANSIRI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to review all the proposal of big dams including the present design of the Dam of Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government was informed about the devastating earthquake of 1950 in North Eastern Region at the time of submission of proposal of the Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project;
- (d) if so, whether the Government considered the probable disaster out of a big water reservoir from a big Dam like Lower Subansiri;
- (e) if so, whether the Government is considering to negotiate with the protesting local people against construction of big dam at Lower Subansiri to avert further loss of time and money; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): The Government does not propose to review all the proposals of big dams in the country. However, as desired by Government of Assam (GoA), NHPC constituted an Expert Group consisting of experts from IIT, Guwahati, Gauhati University and Dibrugarh University to study the downstream impact of Lower Subansiri HEP (2000 MW). The Expert Group has submitted its final report on 3.3.2011. Meanwhile, on the concerns expressed by GoA regarding structural safety of the dam, Planning Commission has appointed a two Member Technical Experts Committee to study the technical reports of the Expert Group.

(c) & (d): Central Water Commission has informed that the seismic data / past history of earthquakes in the country is maintained by Indian Meteorological Department which includes the earthquake of 1950 referred herein. All such information has been taken into account for carrying out the seismic studies during submission of proposal of Lower Subansiri Hydro-electric Project. NHPC has informed that the occurrence of 1950 earthquake was considered during the site specific earthquake design parameters study for this Project by Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee.

(e) & (f): No, Madam. However, the concerns of local people on the safety of the dam has been referred to the Two Member Technical Experts Committee as mentioned in the foregoing replies. In addition, on the concerns of downstream impact, a Joint Steering Committee has been constituted by NHPC on 19.4.2011 to suggest feasible and practicable remedial measures in the downstream areas with reference to Expert Group's recommendations on downstream impact of Subansiri Lower Dam (Part-II) along with issues related to flood, bank erosion and sediment control. Also, as recommended by Inter- Ministerial Group headed by Secretary (Water Resources), a Cumulative Environment Impact Assessment Study of Lohit Sub-basin has recently been completed by WAPCOS and studies for Subansiri and Siang sub-basins have been commissioned by Central Water Commission.