

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2280
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
IMPACT OF HYDRO POWER PROJECTS
Singh Shri Dhananjay

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any analysis/study to evaluate the impact of hydro power projects on small tributaries of various rivers;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has also conducted any study to analyse the adverse impact of discharging excessive water from various hydro power projects to downstream areas;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : As per available information, a comprehensive analysis/study of the impact of hydro power projects on small tributaries of various rivers has not been conducted by Government.

However, comprehensive Environmental Evaluation Studies have been conducted by Central Water Commission (CWC) in respect of completed Water Resources Projects constructed under the scheme Research and Development activities of Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). The study includes, inter-alia, assessment of both the beneficial as well as unfavourable environmental impacts of completed water resources projects, formulation of Environmental Management Plans to mitigate adverse impacts to the extent possible etc.

(c) to (e): Following studies have been conducted:- i) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for Lohit and Bichom basins have been got carried out by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) through Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS).

ii) EIA Studies for Subansiri and Siang Basins have been undertaken by CWC. Additional comprehensive Down-Stream Impact Assessment Study including the environmental impact of Lower Subansiri HE Project (2000 MW) has been carried out by Guwahati University in association with Dibrugarh University and IIT, Guwahati.

iii) Alternate Hydro Energy Centre (AHEC), IIT Roorkee has prepared a report – `Study on Assessment of Cumulative Impact of Hydropower Projects in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Basins up to Devprayag` in Dec. 2011.

iv) Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has prepared a report - `Assessment of Cumulative Impacts of Hydroelectric Projects on Aquatic and Terrestrial Biodiversity in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Basins, Uttarakhand` in 2012.

The recommendations made in the above broad-base studies are considered by the MoEF while considering environment and forest clearances.