

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4087

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

DISPUTE OVER KISHENGANGA PROJECT

Bais Shri Ramesh;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Mohan Shri P. C.;Ray Shri Saugata;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the International Court of Arbitration at the Hague has given its verdict on Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project in favour of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and
- (c) the time by which construction work on the said project is likely to be started after getting approval?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) A seven member Court of Arbitration constituted under the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty delivered a Partial Award on 18.02.2013 on two disputes raised by Pakistan in respect of Kishenganga Hydro-Electric Project. It has decided that the diversion of water is permissible subject to constructing and operating the Kishenganga Hydro Electric project so as to maintain a minimum flow in river Kishenganga at a rate to be determined by the Court in its final award. It has also decided that the lowering of water level in reservoirs of Run-of-River plants below Dead Storage level on the Western Rivers of Indus system to flush out sediment is not permissible under the Treaty but this decision does not apply to projects in operation or under construction without having been objected to by Pakistan. The decision has also lifted its stay on the construction of permanent works on or above the river bed and imposes no further restriction on the construction and operation of the project. As seen from media reports, there is mixed reaction in Pakistan.

(c) The revised cost estimate of Kishenganga Hydroelectric project was approved by the Government in December 2008 subsequent to which the construction of the works through a contract is in progress.