

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:766

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

JOINT MECHANISM OF BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is constructing several dams on the Brahmaputra river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mechanism of exchange of information on the Brahmaputra river has been evolved between the two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government of India has made any suggestion to China for evolving any mechanism to take stock of the situation in each other's territory and to monitor the water sharing arrangement and river water project work etc. and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the talks held between the Government of India and China in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The recently released 'Outline of the 12th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' indicates that three more hydro power projects on the main upstream of the Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region have been approved for implementation by the Chinese Authorities. A hydro power project at Zangmu is under construction. As per information available, construction activity on Brahmaputra river at Zangmu on the Chinese side is a run-of-the-river hydro-electric project which will not adversely impact the downstream areas in India.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) As per the India-China Joint Declaration made during the visit of His Excellency the President of People's Republic of China in November 2006, both countries agreed to set up an Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) to discuss, interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues regarding trans-border rivers. Accordingly, the two sides had set up the Joint Expert Level Mechanism in 2007. So far, seven meetings of ELM have been held.

(e) & (f) During the State Visit of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang to India in May 2013, it was agreed that India and China will further strengthen cooperation on trans-border rivers. Both sides also agreed to cooperate through the Expert Level Mechanism on provision of flood season hydrological data and emergency management, and exchange views on other issues of mutual interest.