

Title : Regarding need to check massive environmental degradation in the down stream of Dikrong River of Assam due to recurring flood and erosion.

(xvi) Need to check massive environmental degradation in the

down stream of Dikrong River of Assam due to recurring flood and erosion.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding water pollution and massive environmental degradation in the downstream of Dikrong River of Assam by way of recurring flood and erosion which affect the river valley throughout the year. The Ranganadi HE Project of NEEPCO envisages inter-basin transfer of water from Ranganadi to Dikrong River due to discharge of 160 cusecs of tailrace water from the Ranganadi Power House when operated at its full capacity. Although the model study conducted by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune observed that there is no danger to the lower reach of Dikrong River due to this additional discharge of water, the ground reality is totally different. The resultant overflow of the Dikrong River disturbs the normal life in winter months also. Neither NEEPCO nor the Department of Water Resources, Government of Assam has taken up any erosion control, anti-pollution as well as river training programme to protect the area from the normal as well as additional discharge of water. As a result, huge area of habitable and cultivable land is washed away by uprooting large number of families every year besides loss of life and property leading to environmental problem including water pollution.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately intervene in the matter for realistic assessment of the recurring damage and to ensure flood and erosion control measures, compensatory relief and rehabilitation as well as pollution control through NEEPCO and other Central Government agencies in collaboration with Assam Government.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (DIBRUGARH): Sir, I associate with the views of Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma and Shri Vanlalzawma.