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Title : Need to stop construction of Tipaimukh dam on the Barak river in Manipur.

SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI (OUTER MANIPUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Power towards the notification issued by the NEEPCO on 31/11/2005 inviting Bids from prospective Bidders (International Competitive Bidding) for construction of 1500 MW Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric (Multi-purpose) Project in Manipur.

The proposed 1500 MW Tipaimukh Hydro-Electric Project will be 162.8 meter high and will be built on the Barak river at Tipaimukh of Manipur state. The main objectives are hydropower generation with an installed capacity of 1500 MW, flood moderation, irrigation and navigation. The cost of Dam is 2899 crores.

The total areas which would be submerged by the dam in Manipur is 293.56 sq km during the peak submergence. 15 villages will be directly affected. Indirectly about 90 villages will be affected due to submergence of their landed properties. Maximum submergent area falls under the Tamenglong district inhabited by the Zeliangrong people. The dam is opposed by the Mizo people of Churchandpur district and Mizoram and all the communities of the State.

Tamenglong falls under one of the Hot Spots of biodiversity. The rich flora and fauna of the district, the rich forest resources, the Barak water falls which have both legendary and tourism importance would be completely submerged and the rich gene pools with tremendous potentials will be lost forever. Further, the dam is going to be built in the highly sensitive seismic zone. Even the Zailad wildlife sanctuary would be submerged.

I request the Central Government to stop the move for construction of Tipaimukh Dam forever.

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...(Interruptions)