

hydro-electric projects and fall mainly in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. No specific information is available regarding threats to existing identity of indigenous people of Assam by mega dams proposed in the North-Eastern Region. However, references in the past have been received from Government of Assam wherein issue of impact of massive hydel power development in Arunachal Pradesh on downstream areas in Assam has been raised and a study regarding assessment of the downstream impact of these hydro projects from Assam has been requested.

Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources on the directions of Prime Minister's Office in August 2009 to evolve a suitable framework to Guide and accelerate the development of Hydropower in the North East Region (NER). As per the IMG's recommendation, it was decided that Central Water Commission shall conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for Subansiri sub basin and Siang sub basin in consultation with Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The draft terms of references for Siang and Subansiri sub basins for taking up EIA studies are under finalization in Ministry of Environment and Forests. These studies would also include the impact on the downstream areas in Assam.

(b) The matter on construction of dams on river Yarlung Zangbo also called Tsangpo impacting the flow of water in the downstream areas in India has been taken up with the Chinese authorities at the highest level. During the visit of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister to Beijing in April, 2010, the Chinese Foreign Minister shared information about construction activity at the Zangmu hydropower station which was widely reported in the Indian media. He stated that Zangmu is a small project with its main function being generation of power and not water supply. He also stated that the power station will not store and regulate the volume of water and this would not have an adverse impact on the downstream areas. However, Government is keeping a constant watch on all developments in this regard.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration in the Government.

#### **Loss due to over flowing of rivers**

1842. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of lives lost due to over flowing of rivers in North India during monsoon this year;
- (b) the relief and rehabilitation efforts by Government for the displaced people;
- (c) whether there is a need to construct new barrages which over flowed this year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per the information received from the State Governments of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, a total of 1064 human lives are reported to have been lost due to natural calamities including heavy rains/floods etc. during monsoon this year.

(b) The responsibility for undertaking rescue and relief measures in the event of natural disasters rest with State Government concerned. The Union Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing appropriate financial and logistic support. For this purpose, a State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted for each State, with certain allocated amount based on the recommendations of Finance Commission. In case of calamities of severe nature, SDRF is supplemented by the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in accordance with the laid down procedure.

(c) No such proposal has been received from the State Governments.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Fresh demand for inter-linking of rivers**

1843. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the National River Interlinking Project in the country;

(b) the details of the rivers included in this project;

(c) the reasons for slow pace of the work and the likely time for its completion;

(d) whether there has been any fresh demand for interlinking of rivers in the country;

and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to them. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed.