

Objection to Tipaimukh dam project

†2934. SHRI JAIPRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has registered its objection to the Tipaimukh Dam Project being built by India over Barak river in Manipur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent souring of friendly relationship between both countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The Government of Bangladesh has written to the Government of India on Tipaimukh hydroelectric project and has proposed that consultations on this issue be held between the two sides. India has welcomed the proposal to hold consultations on the issue of the Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project and has agreed to receive a delegation in this regard. India has reiterated the assurance to the Bangladesh side at the highest level including during the visit of the Prime Minister to Bangladesh in September 2011 that India would not take any steps on the Tipaimukh Project that would adversely impact on Bangladesh. The Bangladesh side has been informed that the project is a hydroelectric project and does not involve diversion of water on account of irrigation.

Interlinking of major rivers

2935. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to interlink major rivers of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such rivers connected so far;
- (c) the details of amount allocated and spent on linking of rivers during the last two years and this year; and
- (d) by when all the rivers would be linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) (erstwhile Ministry of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.