

was provided with a preloaded SIM telephone card for use during the course of Haj in Saudi Arabia.

New dam on Brahmaputra river

1133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China is constructing three new dams over Brahmaputra river whereas it has already constructed one such dam over that river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this move of China would bring disaster particularly in the North-Eastern States of the country; and

(d) if so, diplomatic and other actions Government has taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The recently released 'Outline of the Twelfth Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' indicates that three more hydropower projects on the main stream of the Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region have been approved for implementation by the Chinese authorities. A hydropower project at Zangmu is under construction. Government carefully monitors all developments on the Brahmaputra River. As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the River, India has conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, including at the highest levels of the Government of the People's Republic of China. India has urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

Expenditure incurred on Ministry's building

1134. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred on building and furnishing the Ministry of External Affairs, new premises at Jawahar Bhawan;