

**Dam on Brahmaputra river by China**

943. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's 1.5 billion dollar Zangmu Hydro Power Project on river Brahmaputra and dams on the rivers originating in the Tibetan Plateau are of serious concern to India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India had expressed its concern to China and it has not been very responsive;

(c) whether China is planning to build a few hundred new power projects in the Himalayas including some major ones with plan to divert water flows to eastern China which could be disastrous to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to negotiate water sharing agreement with China?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (d) According to reports, Zangmu Hydro-electric Project has been fully operationalized in October, 2015. The 'Outline of the Twelfth Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' indicates that three more hydro power projects on the main stream of the Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region have been approved for implementation by the Chinese authorities. Government of India carefully monitors all developments on the Brahmaputra River. These four projects are considered to be Run of the River (RoR) hydro-electric projects. As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the River, India has conveyed the 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. During Hon'ble Prime Minister's meeting with Chinese President Xi-Jinping on the side-lines of the Fifth BRICS Summit in Durban, South Africa on 27th March, 2013, President Xi assured our Prime Minister that they were quite conscious of their responsibilities and the interests of the lower riparian countries.

In 2006, the two sides established an India China Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) on Trans-border Rivers. During the then Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to China in

October, 2013, the two Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-border Rivers. The Joint Statement issued during Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to China in May, 2015 states, "The two sides will further strengthen cooperation through the Expert Level mechanism on the provision of flood-season hydrological data and emergency management and exchange views on other issues of mutual interest".

#### **Tunnel through Seshachalam Hills**

944. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice that in Andhra Pradesh a tunnel is being constructed through the Holy Seshachalam Hills at Tirupati to supply Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) water upto the Nagari ignoring Agama Shastras and objections of Tirumala Tirupati priests; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government would consider intervening in the matter and offering suitable advice to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Since Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) is purely a drinking water supply scheme, this Ministry is not involved in the techno-economic appraisal of the same.

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has, however, informed that the proposed alignment of HNSS is not passing through the holy Seshachalam Hills.

#### **Construction of small check dams in Chhattisgarh**

945. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Sanna area specially in Jashpur and Sarguja districts of Chhattisgarh, lots of small rivers are there in which water flows throughout the year which goes waste;

(b) whether small check dams at a few distances can be built so that water could be stored and the water level could go up and help in water harvesting; and

(c) what action Government would take to store water which is going waste in the above districts of the State?