

**Blocking of Brahmaputra water by China**

†1772. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of partial blocking of water of Brahmaputra river by China regarding which apprehensions of large scale water crisis in India in future are being expressed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of times China has reduced the flow of the above water during the last three years and its effect on Indian territory; and

(c) the number of dams constructed/being constructed by China on river Brahmaputra and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (c) In September 2016, the Chinese authorities announced blocking of a tributary of the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) River as part of a hydro project. The Project, which is called the Lalho Project, is based on the Xiabuqu River in Xigaze (Tibet Autonomous Region). China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has clarified that the reservoir capacity of the project is less than 0.02% of the average annual runoff of the Yarlung Zangbo (Brahmaputra) River.

Government, in close cooperation with various State Governments which are users of the waters of River Brahmaputra, continues to carefully monitor the water flow in river Brahmaputra for early detection of abnormality so that corrective and preventive measures are taken to safeguard livelihood of peoples of these States of Union of India.

Various issues relating to trans-border rivers, including construction of hydro-power dams, are discussed with China under the ambit of India-China Expert Level Mechanism which was established in 2006. 10th Meeting of the ELM was held in New Delhi in April 2016. Government of India, under the Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-border Rivers, signed in October 2013, obtains hydrological data from China on Brahmaputra River. This arrangement has been useful in preventing damage during the flood season.

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.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

India has urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

The Chinese side has conveyed to us on several occasions that they are only undertaking run-of-the-river hydropower projects which do not involve diversion of the waters of the Brahmaputra. We intend to remain engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interest.

#### **China's support to counter cross border terrorism**

1773. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to garner China's support to persuade Pakistan to desist from sponsoring cross-border terrorism, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the response of China in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) China has often repeated its concern on spread of terrorism and their desire to cooperate with us on this issue. On several occasions, China has reiterated with us their resolute opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations with 'zero tolerance', and has agreed that there is no justification for terrorism.

Government has consistently highlighted to China regarding the threat of cross border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and affecting the region, including India. Specifically, we have emphasized forcefully that while the Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed has been proscribed by the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee established under UNSC Resolutions 1267/1989/2253, as far back as 2001 for its well known terror activities and links to the Al Qaeda, the designation of JeM's main leader, financier and motivator Masood Azhar has been repeatedly put on a technical hold. Accordingly, we have urged China to reverse its technical hold on India's request to list Masood Azhar under 1267 provisions. India's request is co-sponsored by several prominent countries.

#### **Effects of new foreign policy**

†1774. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the allied countries like Russia, Nepal and Sri Lanka are getting distanced from India owing to its current foreign policy, if so, the reasons therefor; and

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