

Construction of dam on Brahmaputra

†2898. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some dams have been built or are under construction on tributaries of Brahmaputra river by China;

(b) whether due to construction of the said dams, the water of Siang river has become polluted and the local people are forced to drink this polluted water as a result of which they are having various types of diseases; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to provide pure drinking water to the people living there and protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Government has seen reports drawing possible linkage between the deterioration in the quality of Siang/Brahmaputra River and the infrastructure construction activities on the river in China. In this regard, Government has noted Chinese Foreign Ministry's statements denying any such link and stating that the situation was caused by an earthquake in the region and was not a man-made incident. Government, in close cooperation with various State Governments which are users of the waters of Brahmaputra River, 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.

As a lower riparian State with considerable established user rights to the waters of the trans-border rivers, Government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities and has urged them to ensure that the interests of downstream States are not harmed by any activities in upstream areas.

Government remains engaged with China on the issue of trans-border rivers to safeguard our interest, including through an institutionalized Expert Level Mechanism which was established in 2006, as well as through diplomatic channels.

Digital exploitation of children

2899. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to create a permanent institutional framework to monitor and regulate online content that falls under the category of digital exploitation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.