

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:712

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

BAGLIHAR HYDRO- ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a team of experts has visited the Baglihar Hydro-Electric Power project in Jammu and Kashmir recently;
- (b) if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (c) whether the said team has submitted its report to the World Bank;
- (d) if so, the response of the World Bank thereon;
- (e) the progress made on the project so far;
- (f) the total amount likely to be spent on the project;
- (g) whether there is any dispute on the project; and
- (h) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to resolve the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

- (a) The Neutral Expert accompanied by his Assistant, the Coordinator for the Expert Determination and technical delegations of India and Pakistan conducted a site inspection of the Baglihar H.E. Project on 2nd and 3rd October, 2005.
- (b) to (d) The site inspection is part of the process by which the Neutral Expert will come to a determination whether the design of the Baglihar dam as prepared by India is in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. The Neutral Expert is to give a final determination on the questions referred to him and his findings may be expected only some time in the early part of next year. No interim report is required or expected to be submitted to the World Bank and consequently, the question of a response from the World Bank does not arise.
- (e) As per the progress reported, dam blocks were completed up to almost 50% of the concrete, civil works of the underground powerhouse were almost completed, one turbine/generator of 150 MW was already erected and the installation of the two other units were under progress.
- (f) As per current assessments, a sum of about Rs. 4,000 crores is likely to be spent on the project.
- (g) & (h) Pakistan has raised a dispute that the design of the Baglihar H.E. Plant is not in conformity with the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, the Governments of India and Pakistan had approved a name to be appointed as a Neutral Expert by the World Bank who will come to a conclusion in the matter after hearing both parties and examining all relevant documents. This process commenced in June, 2005 and is anticipated to conclude in May, 2006.