

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3703  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004  
CONSTRUCTION OF DAM ON WULLAR LAKE  
Kamat Shri Gurudas

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to construct a dam on Wullar Lake to overcome the discharge of water Jhelum;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Pakistan has objected to the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) The construction of Tulbal Navigation Project, comprising mainly a navigation lock and a regulating structure, below the Wullar Lake was started by the Government of J&K in 1984. The Project is designed to facilitate round the year navigation in the river Jhelum between Srinagar and Baramulla. It envisages regulating the depletion from the natural storage of the Wullar Lake so as to maintain a minimum draft of 4.5 ft. (1.37 m) corresponding to a discharge of 4,000 cusecs (113.27 cumecs) below the Lake in the Jhelum river during the winter months

(October- February). During this period, the river normally carries a discharge of only 2,000 cusecs (56.63 cumecs) giving a water depth of 2.5 ft. (0.76 m) or less which is not sufficient for navigation.

(c) & (d) Whereas the Indus Waters Treaty allows the non- consumptive use of waters of the Western Rivers (Indus, Jhelum & Chenab), including control or use of water of the Jhelum Main for navigation, provided the water, undiminished in volume, is returned to the same river and is not prejudicial to the use of Pakistan, Pakistan objected to the Project stating that it involves storage and that India is not permitted any storage on the Jhelum Main and as such, the Project is in violation of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The work on the Project was suspended by India with effect from October 2, 1987 as a pre-condition of Pakistan for Government level talks. The Project has remained suspended till date.

As a part of the on-going Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan, Secretary-level talks on this Project were held at Islamabad on July 29-30, 2004. During the talks, which were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. It was agreed that the discussions would continue at the next round of the dialogue process with a view to finding a solution to the issue consistent with the provisions of the Treaty.