

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2204

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006

INDO PAK TALKS ON TULBUL NAVIGATION AND WULLAR PROJECTS

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation and Wullar Projects ended in a stalemate;
- (b) if so, whether both the Secretaries will meet again to review the entire issue again;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the rounds of negotiations held so far between the Secretaries on the issue;
- (e) the technical and other issues which are purportedly violative of 1960 agreement raised by Pakistan and the contentions of India on the same; and
- (f) the details of issue on which both the countries have arrived at in the meeting?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF.SAIF- UD- DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) During the Secretary Level Talks between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation/Wular Barrage Storage Project held at Islamabad from 22nd to 23rd June, 2006, the two sides had a better understanding of each other's views and reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Water Treaty 1960 and agreed to continue the discussions during the next round of Composite Dialogue with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

(d) Earlier, eight rounds of Secretary Level talks and thereafter, four more between the Secretaries as part of the Composite Dialogue, have been held on the issue so far.

(e) & (f) In Pakistan's perception, the project structure is a barrage with a storage capacity of around 0.3 million acre feet (0.369 Billion cubic metre) and that India is not permitted to construct any storage facility on the main stem of the river Jhelum. Indian side has pointed out that the structure is not a storage facility but a navigation facility as defined in the Indus Waters Treaty 1960. Further, Wular Lake gains natural storage and the navigation lock is merely a structure to regulate the outflow from the natural storage to facilitate adequate depth of water for navigation during the winter months from October to February. Also, Non-Consumptive Use is permitted to India under the Treaty which includes control or use of water for navigation, provided these do not prejudice downstream uses of waters by Pakistan. Further that Pakistan has not established any prejudice to their downstream uses by the construction of the structure.