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Government of India
Ministry of Water Resources
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Brahmaputra Board

Basistha, Guwahati-29
Dated 9th June, 2016

To

The Commissioner (B&B)
Ministry of Water Resources
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
2nd Floor, Block No. 3, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-3

Sub : PMO reference petition of Sri Sarit Baran Das.

Reference : Commissioner (B&B) F. No. Y-12/2015-B&B 3681-82 dated Oct. 30th, 2015

Sir,

Sri Sarit Baran Das has suggested that the problems of North East area can be solved by (a) dams in the upper region, (b) spurs at every bend, (c) dykes and canals on both banks of Brahmaputra, (d) sluice gates and barrages at confluence of tributaries, (e) barrage at Goalpara to divert Brahmaputra water to Farakka Barrage. It is brought out that river Brahmaputra is one of the largest rivers in the world and carries highest silt load amongst all such large rivers. The river is highly dynamic and braided in nature. The river flows through alluvial narrow plains and easily spills its banks. In most reaches, the river does not have a fixed bank. Owing to these facts, the flood and erosion problem of Brahmaputra is quite complex in nature and is difficult to tackle.

2. In this regard, no doubt floods can be reduced through construction of dams and creation of reservoirs in the upstream of a river. The master plans prepared by Brahmaputra Board had accordingly identified 127 dam projects. In May, 2003, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) proposed 168 hydroelectric projects in Brahmaputra basin alone for a capacity of about 60,000MW. However, except for Bichom project in Kameng Basin and Lower Subansiri Project, other identified major projects are yet to be taken up for implementation.

3. Embankments have already been constructed along both banks of Brahmaputra river wherever necessary by Assam Government for tackling floods. The master plans prepared by the Brahmaputra Board identified 41 drainage development schemes, out of which 2 have been executed, 4 are under construction where sluices are provided to prevent flooding from backflow, 4 schemes have not made any headway due to non-availability of land or lack of financial sanction etc and 3 schemes have been subsequently found as not useful economically. Other schemes are at various stages of investigation, DPR preparation/ appraisal by competent authority.

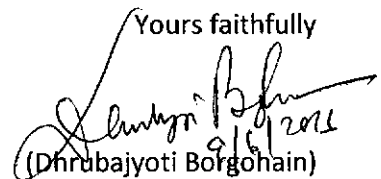
4. Regarding construction of spurs like Dibrugarh all along the Brahmaputra bank such proposals are associated with many adverse impacts including huge cost that may be involved. The adverse impacts are upstream afflux, drainage congestion & flooding and downstream erosion.

5. In Assam, whether flood is welcome or not, is also an arguable point in view of fertility of soil associated with flooding and need of floods for conservation of biodiversity in some areas. Besides, confinement of such a huge and dynamic river needs careful approach. Board has taken up a mathematical model study of the entire Brahmaputra river in collaboration with IIT, Guwahati in order to develop knowledge which could form basis of development of comprehensive solutions to flood and erosion problems. It may also be mentioned that Asian Development Bank, in its project in Brahmaputra Valley, carried out a detailed study and has opted for protection of bank rather than intervention of river flow while choosing the type of anti-erosion works for implementation.

6. As regards construction of a barrage at Goalpara suggested in the letter for diverting flow of Brahmaputra to Ganga, such studies are within the purview of National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully



(Dhrubajyoti Borgohain)

Superintending Engineer (Planning)

Copy for information to :-

1. PS to Vice-Chairman, Brahmaputra Board, Basistha, Guwahati-29
2. The Executive Engineer(Headquarter), Brahmaputra Board, Basistha, Guwahati-29