

**AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)**



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**Member:**

- Standing Committee on Railways
- Consultative Committee of Ministry of DoNER
- Permanent Special Invitee (PSI) on the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

29<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

To

**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India  
South Block,  
New Delhi – 110001

**Subject: Disaster due to landslide at Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Power Project**

Respected Shri Modi Ji,

I am sure you are aware of the disaster which has resulted from landslide at the site of SLHEP on 27 October 2023.

The Subansiri Dam, as the project is commonly known, has been built without taking into consideration the recommendations of the experts drawn from the universities and technical institution of Assam. Let me mention three scientific reasons why the present disaster is only a warning which we must not ignore.

Firstly, the hilly soil of Arunachal is fragile. Secondly, the dam site is very much earthquake-prone. Thirdly, the base of the dam was reduced by 09 metres without any public explanation.

The experts engaged by the Union government gagged these weaknesses in order to realise the project. Landslides at the dam site have been a feature due to fragility of the soil. The landslide on 27 November 2023 blocked the only diversion tunnel working at that time. The consequence was terrifying. The downstream Subansiri dried up and remained so for a long period of about 16 hours. The duration was enough to kill the entire aquatic life of the river for a long stretch. To put it simply, the river was KILLED.

Let me assert, Sir, that the fragile soil structure can never withstand the huge reservoir of water. This unavoidable fact was ignored by your experts. I am very much apprehensive that a disaster at the dam site, many folds more destructive than the recently witnessed Sikkim disaster, is only a matter of time. My state will witness disappearance of many many thousands of human and aquatic lives.

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Let me remind you, Sir, that you voiced your opposition to such big dam during our election campaign in Assam in 2014. Shri Rajnath Singh, the present defence minister, went a step further and campaigned that BJP would scrap the project if voted to power. The people voted for you, and unfortunately you forgot your words.

It is really unfortunate for us that the NGT was very unkind, after the present chairman took over in Delhi, immediately after his retirement from the Supreme Court, to ignore the earlier decisions of the Kolkata Bench. History is also a witness to the fact that the Justice of the Supreme Court, who hastily upheld the NGT verdict, became the chairman of Human Rights Commission immediately after retirement. We refuse to believe that these developments were incidental.

The huge dam in Arunachal has been thrust upon the people living in the downstream in Assam. The knowledge of the Assamese professors was bulldozed by the experts who toed the bureaucratic line of thinking to generate power at any cost. A thorough investigation will also reveal why the cost has escalated three times to about twenty thousand in as many years. The dam, till it survives, will also remain an epitome of corruption at different levels.

Sir, to save people of my state, I earnestly appeal to you to disband the project even NOW. It has been constructed on incorrect basis of science and technology. The lives of the Assamese matter and value much more than twenty thousand crores. The dam issue has engaged me over the years. I communicated on the issue with the concerned department of your ministry in the recent past also.

The impending disaster will not spare those responsible for it, Sir.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

**(Ajit Kumar Bhuyan)**