

Tipaimukh Dam: The Consequence for Bangladesh

Dr. J. Ahmed

Environment Specialist,
Former Vice Chancellor, JU, Bangladesh &
President Bangladesh Farakka Committee

Tipaimukh Dam



- Background
- Potential ecological costs
- Social damages

1. Background

- **Tipaimukh is located in Monipur state of India**
- It is to be build on an international river: Barak-Surma-Kushyara of Bangladesh
- Less than 100 km north of Zakiganj in Sylhet
- Large high head dam [162 m]
- Hydro-power project to generate 1500 electricity
- Also for flood control and irrigation

Introduction



- India Signed contracts to start the **Tipaimukh** project
- Though postponed in 2007 due to protests &
- Though assurance by Prime Minister of India, not to harm Bangladesh
- Now GOI approved to restart the project
- 5,163.86 crore Indian Rupi has been allocated
- To be completed in 2012

2. Tipaimukh's Potential ecological cost on Bangladesh



- BD gets 7-8% of its total water from Barak
- Millions of people depend on this water
- Hundreds of water bodies in Sylhet will be deprived
- Will kill Meghna and all common rivers

2. Potential ecological costs



- Will dry up Surma and Kushiara rivers in Winter season
- North-eastern green fertile soil will turn into dry waste land
- Will disrupt irrigation, agriculture, drinking water supply, navigation etc.

2. Potential ecological costs

- Six to seven months dry conditions will stop/lessen recharge of ground water
- Will affect all dug wells, shallow tubewells
- Will be just another Farakka
- Agriculture that depends on surface as well as ground water will be affected seriously

2. Potential ecological costs



- Will destroy fisheries wildlife in numerous haors and low lying areas in the entire Sylhet division and some peripheral areas of Dhaka division

2. Tipaimukh's Potential ecological costs in Bangladesh



- It will drastically affect weather and climate
- Will turn a wet cooler habitat into a hot uncomfortable cauldron
- Massive siltation, flood and salinity
- Intrusion of saline water into crop lands

3. Tipaimukh's Social damages in Bangladesh

- Adverse environmental & social control
- Poverty in Bangladesh: due to loss of employments and livelihoods
- Massive migration and planet of slums
- Food crisis and poverty of women and children
- 1 million women and children will die of hunger: more than a Atom bomb attack
- BD may lose up to \$30 billion a year
- Adverse political control by India:
- Tipaimukh will really become a "Tipai-mukh" (shutting up mouth)!!