

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Thursday, May 12, 1994/ Vaisakha 22, 1916  
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

### WELCOME TO THE MALDIVES PARLIAMETARY DELEGATION

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Abdulle Hameed, Speaker of the Citizens' Majlis of the Republic of Maldives and the hon. Members of the Maldivian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are:-

1. Mr. K. Dh. Ahmed Maniku
2. Mr. Mohamed Waheed

### 3. Mr. Hussein Manikufaan

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 11 May, 1984 evening. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to His Excellency the President, the Citizens' Majlis, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Maldives.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.01 hrs

[Translation]

### Distribution and Storage of Water

\* 661 SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the study conducted by the Central Water Commission in regard to water distribution and storage in the main reservoirs of the country ;

(b) whether less water is being stored in these reservoirs than their installed capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
AND MINISTER OF WATER RE-  
SOURCES (SHRI P.K. THUNGON):

(a) to (d) . A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

The Central Water Commission has been monitoring the storages in as many as 61 important major reservoirs spread all over the country.

The study consists of reservoir-wise weekly storage position during the current season, last season and a comparative analysis of this year's position with re-

spect to last year and average of past ten years on the same date. Similarly, another study is also conducted on weakly basis, with respect to various important river basins reflecting current year's, last year's as well as average of last ten years' capacity and percentage departure therefrom.

On the basis of compilation of such data, the storage build-up during various years as percentage of designed capacity has been analysed. The storage build-up depends on the rainfall in the catchment and resulting run-off Therefrom. Details of basinwise maximum live storage build-up during the last 10 years is give at Annexure-I and the storage build up in some of the important reservoirs during 1983-92 is given at Annexure-II.

Using the results of the analysis by Central Water Commission, the States concerned can draw up operation plans accordingly, for the judicious use of available water for various purposes.

## ANNEXURE - I

## Basinwise Maximum Live Storage Build-Up In Central Water Commission Monitored Reservoirs (1983-92)

S.No.	Basin	Live capacity (cubic kilometres)	Average over last 10 years as %	Maximum in last 10 years %	Minimum in last 10 years %	Year	Year	Year
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Ganga	24.25	67	1990	88	1992	50	
2.	Indus	13.77	85	1988	100	1987	61	
3.	Narmada	1.94	90	1989 1990	100	1983	78	
4.	Tapi	7.62	74	1988	84	1985	34	
5.	Mahi	3.43	73	1990	96	1983	35	
6.	Sabarmati	0.78	67	1990 1992	100	1987	1	
7.	Godavari	11.35	57	1990	93	1985	26	
8.	Krishna	27.67	86	1991	98	1987	56	

S.No.	Basin	Live capacity (cubic kilometres)	Average over last 10 years as %	Maximum in last 10 years Year	Minimum in last 10 years Year	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Mahanadi & East Flowing Rivers.	10.13	86	1990	1984	99	61
10.	Cauvery & East Flowing Rivers	8.43	54	1992	1987	75	25
11.	West Flowing Rivers	7.75	70	1992	1987	99	33

## ANNEXURE - II

## Storage Build-Up in Some Of The Important Reservoirs in India (1983-92)

S.No.	Name of the reservoir	State	No. of year in which design live capacity attained
1.	Nagarjunasagar	Andhra Pradesh	5
2.	Srisailem	Andhra Pradesh	7
3.	Ukai	Gujarat	5
4.	Gobindsagar	Himachal Pradesh	1
5.	Tungabhadra	Karnataka	9
6.	Idukki	Kerala	1
7.	Gandhisagar	Madhya Pradesh	1
8.	Jayakwadi	Maharashtra	1
9.	Hirakud	Orissa	6
10.	Mettur	Tamil Nadu	1
11.	Rihand	Uttar Pradesh	2

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per a report of the Central Water Commission in as many as 61 important major reservoirs of the country, 30 percent less water is being stored than their installed capacity. Even the reservoirs related to the Ganges, Tapti and Cauvery did not have hundred percent water for the last ten years. The reason generally given is that adequate water storage could not be done due to lesser or excessive flow of water in these rivers.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to ensure that the reservoirs have water according to their installed capacity. What measures have been taken by the Government for desilting the reservoirs as to improve their storage capacity?

[*English*]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, the reason for not filling up the reservoirs fully is mainly because of lack of proper rainfall in the catchment area and it also depends on the topography of the catchment area and the vegetation of the catchment area and the water used in the upper regions of the river.

Therefore, the Government has, from time to time, taken up programmes for improvement of catchment areas and also for proper utilisation of water in the upper areas of the rivers. So, these are the steps the Government is taking.

As regards the question that water in the reservoirs is collected only up to about seventy percent of the capacity of the reservoir, I would like to inform the

hon. Member that to some extent he is right that on an average, in 61 storage reservoirs, only 71 per cent of the capacity of the reservoir is filled up. But that cannot be termed as bad because it is fairly good. We have about 14 reservoirs which have chronic problems of not being filled up properly. The rest of the reservoirs are doing fairly good. As on today, 23 reservoirs are filled up less than eight per cent of their capacity and the rest 38 are filled up more than eight per cent of their capacity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir what the hon. Minister is doing for desiltation deposited in the reservoirs.

[*English*]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : As regards silting, at times, the programmes are made for dredging of for taking out the silt, wherever possible. But I must state at this stage that such programmes are carried out by the respective State Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the report of the Central Water Commission loss of water for drinking purposes and irrigation in North India in the process of distribution from the main canals and their tributaries to proper places in 17 and 55 respectively. If this loss of water is prevented and proper irrigation arrangement is made, then the national irrigation capacity will greatly increase. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what measures are being taken to prevent such

loss of water?

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, as far as loss of water for irrigation is concerned, we have taken various steps from the Government side also, though it is the work of the State Governments. We advise them and give them technical guidance as to how this can be minimised. We have Centrally-sponsored CAD programme to encourage the farmers and the State Governments for taking up such programmes.

As regards the use of water for .....*Interruptions.*

MR. SPEAKER : What are those steps which are suggested by you to reduce the loss of water?

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, I have stated the steps taken to minimise the loss of water for irrigation. Now I would like to give some statistics.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wants to know what can be done to reduce the loss of water.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : That is exactly what I was stating.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you are giving the statistics.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : I was telling how to reduce the use of water so that the water is not wasted. Now, how is water wasted?

MR. SPEAKER : By canal lining and so many things.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Leaking of the channel, more water-logging etc., are

the main causes for loss of water. Therefore, to prevent water-logging, we have the CAD programme, under which grant is given from the Central Government to the State Governments.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you to the last sentence of the reply wherein it is stated:

“Using the results of the analysis by Central Water Commission, the States concerned can draw up operation plans accordingly, for the judicious use of available water for various purposes.”

Sir, it is a matter of national importance. Water is a national priority. It is in great demand. I would like to know whether this method has ever been discussed in any conference of the Irrigation Ministers and if so, what is the recommendation thereof. Has any request been made to the Government of India in this regard? The State Governments complain of paucity of funds to take up these measures of silting clearance or other things. I want to know whether any study has been made on what sort of programme has got to be taken in which project to maximise the optimal filling of reservoir. I also want to know what plan has been made and whether any assistance has been sought by the State Governments and whether any assistance is going to be given, in terms of.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please, it is becoming confusing now. Please sit down.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I want to give one instance.

MR. SPEAKER : No instances and

examples. There are other Members to ask questions. No examples need be given now. Just the questions only be put.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, the point which I have stated here is that the States concerned can draw up operation plan accordingly on a reservoir.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I want to know whether any assistance has been sought or not.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : I will come to that also. For example in Rehan tank, the available water supply is.....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am sorry to interfere. But the simple question is : Has the study been made to find out what amount of money would be required? We do not want examples from him as well as from you.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : All right sir. The study is carried out from time to time and almost every week the study is carried out by the Central Water Commission. *(Interruptions)* Let me clarify.

MR. SPEAKER : You may not have the information. You can collect and give it to him.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, this is regarding the reservoirs. I am talking about reservoirs. For the reservoirs, the study is made on weekly basis by the Central Water Commission. He is talking about a larger study. We do have such studies for the river basins. We have made studies.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :  
What are the remedial measures and the

amount required and whether assistance has been sought and if so, the reaction of the Government of India? *(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, it is a very good question. Questions are good. Do not confuse the Minister. He is replying properly.

Mr. Minister, the Member wants to know what can be done to see that the capacity created is utilised and what is the amount of money required for that purpose. He does not want to know how much water is getting collected in the basins.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, I was first coming to the question of reservoirs because the question was of reservoirs. If he wants the details of basin-wise studies, I will need separate notice for that. What I can state here at this stage is that through Central Water Commission and National Water Development Association, the basin-wise studies are made. If the details are wanted, I can give them but I need a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send it later.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : In the second part of the question, the hon. Minister wanted to know whether any financial assistance is given for this purpose. No assistance has been sought by the States so far. We do not have programmes in general. But we do have programmes for giving matching grants. *(Interruption)*.

MR. SPEAKER : I am very attentively hearing what you are saying.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : As I have

already stated, we have centrally-sponsored Command Area Development programme and the Catchment area programme etc. Under those schemes, we are providing whatever assistance, as per the programme, is to be provided by the Government of India. This is no specific provision as such for the study.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are right that this is a very important question. As many as 61 important major reservoirs in the country are directly under the Central Water Commission and are monitored by it. The hon. Minister has said that there is some vegetation problem and topography is also changing which is resulting in decline in the capacity of these reservoirs. In view of the fact that the monitoring is undertaken by the Central Water Commission, has a complete study been carried out to decide as to what steps can be taken to increase their storage capacity? Sir, billions of rupees have been spent on these projects and the farmers are incurring losses. Have any suggestions given to the Government to increase the capacity of these projects and is the Government formulating a scheme based on those suggestions with a view to ensure the full utilisation of the capacity?

[English]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Sir, so far as maintenance of the reservoirs is concerned, it is not directly under the Central Government. These are taken care of by the respective State Governments. What is concerned with the Central Water Commission is the study as to how much of water is filled up in which

year. I have got the details for the last ten years. After doing the study we can advise the State Governments about the water level coming up or going down. On the basis of that the respective State Governments can chalk out their.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : The work of the Central Water Commission is only to winter. The reservoirs and inform the Govt. That the water level is going down. This can also be done by an Engineer silting there

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : This is what is being done by the Central Water Commission.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question about silting is most important and the hon. Minister is repeatedly saying that desilting is the responsibility of the State Government. Sir, Bhakhara Dam is in my constituency but not an inch of land in Himachal Pradesh is irrigated nor the Himachal Pradesh gets any share in it. Govind Sagar Dam is also infested with siltation but the Central Government is not paying any attention to it. The water is being used up by other States, the State has no means and there has been no representation from the State but these are national projects. In view of these will the government take steps and under take desilting in their hands?

[English]

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very important question. I quite agree with him. I would like to say that at the time of designing steps are taken. These are certain tech-

nical matters which we will have to understand. So far as the silting is concerned, the first step taken is at the time of designing of the dam, proper care is taken so that that part is taken care of. Secondly, after the dam is constructed, steps are taken for dredging or whatever other methods that are required.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water coming to Eastern States from China and Nepal flows into Kosi river. The water of Kosi river is utilised for agriculture and drinking purposes. The Central Water Commission has investigated the cause of the loss of water and Bihar Government has submitted a proposal in this regard because we are incurring losses worth billions of rupees on account of this loss of water. Has Central Water Commission sent any proposal for making arrangements for undertaking irrigation in the State.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This does not come out of this question. If you have information, give it.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, that is what I was going to say. The question is about the details of the study conducted by the Central Water Commission in regard to water distribution and storage in main reservoirs of the country. It is not a study in totality. It is a study of the reservoirs which are already in existence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving protection, to the Minister.

[*English*]

Mr. Minister, you have heard the Members. Let us not be very technical on the point. The real issues have been projected. If it is possible, please get them examined. They are the real issues.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, storage and distribution network all over the country is affected because the lines are not properly built. There was a proposal for modernisation. About 45 per cent of the water is getting wasted. Modernisation is the only way out for this problem. If we spend 10 per cent of the total construction cost for modernisation, 45 per cent of water will be saved. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this modernisation scheme for the distribution network which is pending for years together will be given priority ?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Sir as I have already stated, there are programmes from the State Governments and also there are Centrally assisted programmes. Under these programmes these points, which the hon. Member has stated, are taken care of .

[*English*]

### Linguistic Minorities

\*662. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the safeguards and protection given by the Government to the linguistic minorities in the country;