

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 274

ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

OLD DAMS

274 PROF. SOUGATA RAY
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Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is concerned about the damage of century old dams in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of existing century old dams in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted study on the safety of structure and strength of such dams and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether any periodical verification is being carried out about the safety of check dams in the State of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (c) Yes, the Central Government is concerned about the safety of the old dams in the country. However, age of the dam is not the only factor to judge a dam's stability or possibility of structural failure. These superstructures have a valid lifespan as long as they are technically safe and operational.

Further, responsibility for ensuring safety of dams, including its operation and maintenance, rests primarily with the dam owners; which are mostly the State Governments and Central/State Public Sector Units. Details regarding dam safety assessment, maintenance, repair and renovations are available with the concerned dam owners. Further, generally dam owners themselves carry out the safety audit of their dams, in terms of periodical pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspection.

Union Government has enacted the Dam Safety Act (DSA) 2021 with the intent to provide surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of all the specified dams of the country for prevention of dam failure related disasters and to provide for institutional mechanism to ensure their safe functioning. Pursuant to the provisions of the DSA-2021, the newly constituted 29 State Dam Safety Organisations have conducted pre-monsoon and post-

monsoon inspections of the dams falling within their respective jurisdiction through their dam safety units.

Govt. of India has implemented the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with external funding for improving their safety and operational performances. Under the World Bank funded DRIP Phase-I programme, implemented during April 2012 to March 2021; 223 dams located in 7 States and prioritized by them for taking these dams under this program; have been comprehensively audited and rehabilitated. Out of these 223 dams, 2 dams are older than 100 years. Phase II of this project is under implementation at present.

(b) As per the National Register of Large Dams (2019 edition) compiled by the Central Water Commission based on the information provided by the project/dam authorities, there are 227 functional large dams which are more than 100 years old (constructed in or before 1921). State-wise numbers of these dams is enclosed as Annexure.

(d) & (e) 'Water' being a State subject, construction, operation and maintenance of water resources projects including check dams (which is primarily a soil conservation and water recharging small structure) are primarily States' responsibilities. The information related to check dams, their functionality and their upkeep etc. lies with the respective State Governments.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE AS REFERRED TO IN PART (b) OF REPLY OF LOK SABHA USQ NO. 274 FOR ANSWER ON 08/12/2022 REGARDING “OLD DAMS”

State wise list of 100 years Old Dams as per National Register of Large Dams (NRLD) 2019

S.N.	State/UT	No. of large dams more than 100 years old (constructed in or before 1921)
1.	Adman and Nicobar	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
4.	Assam	-
5.	Bihar	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	7
7.	Goa	-
8.	Gujarat	30
9.	Haryana	-
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
12.	Jharkhand	0
13.	Karnataka	15
14.	Kerala	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	62
16.	Maharashtra	42
17.	Manipur	-
18.	Meghalaya	0
19.	Mizoram	-
20.	Nagaland	-
21.	Odisha	3
22.	Punjab	0
23.	Rajasthan	25
24.	Sikkim	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	1
26.	Tripura	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	17
28.	Uttarakhand	0
29.	West Bengal	0
30.	Telangana	18
	Total	227
