

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:480

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

PROTECTION OF DAMS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of dams in India that are more than 100 years old;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government for protection of these old dams, including safety inspections carried out during the last three years;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the States for protection of old dams;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially from Maharashtra; and
- (f) the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) There are 126 large dams in India which are more than 100 years old as per National Register of Large Dams, 2009.

(b) The responsibility of protection of the dams lies with the concerned project authority / state Governments. However, the Union government has constituted National Committee on Dam Safety to render technical advice on the dam safety activities in various States and suggests improvements in this regard. Further Central Government has introduced "Dam Safety Bill "in August, 2010 in Parliament.

The responsibility for safety inspection rests with the project owners, which are mostly the state governments or their public sector undertakings. Such inspections, in respect of each large dam under an owner, is required to be carried out twice in a year (i.e. pre-monsoon and post-monsoon), and the inspection report is required to be consolidated by the Dam Safety Organisation (DSO) of the concerned owner. A list of states/ organisations that have submitted such reports to DSO, CWC during the past three years, is given as Annexure-I.

(c) The safety inspections are carried out by the project authorities/ State Government from their own resources and Union Government does not maintain record of funds allocated and spent for this purpose.

(d) to (f) The Union Government initially received proposal from 13 States for rehabilitation of 382 old dams under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Plan Scheme. These states were Andhra Pradesh (6 dams), Bihar (8 dams), Chhattisgarh (12 dams), Gujarat (7 dams), Jharkhand (4 dams), Kerala (31 dams), Maharashtra (125 dams), Tamil Nadu (22 dams), Uttar Pradesh (9 dams), Uttarakhand (1 dam), West Bengal (31 dams), Madhya Pradesh (78 dams) and Orissa (48 dams).

During firming up of the DRIP proposal, four States namely Kerala (31 dams), Orissa (38 dams), Madhya Pradesh (50 dams) and Tamil Nadu (104 dams) were finalized for participation, in DRIP wherein 223 old dams will be rehabilitated during its implementation.