

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1682
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
STORAGE CAPACITY OF DAMS
Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria being followed at present in the classification of reservoirs and dams in the country;
- (b) the number of major dams in the country alongwith their present storage capacity, State-wise;
- (c) the percentage and quantum of water from these dams being used for irrigation purpose; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for better utilization of water stored in the dams?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) India has adopted the definition of large dams as per the norms of International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) which classifies the large dam as one with maximum height of more than 15 metres from its deepest foundation to the crest. A dam between 10 and 15 metres in height from its deepest foundation is also included in classification of large dam provided it complies with one of the following conditions: (a) length of crest of the dam is not less than 500 meters or (b) capacity of the reservoir formed by the dam is not less than one million cubic metres (MCM) or (c) the maximum flood discharge dealt with by the dam is not less than 2000 cubic metres per second or (d) the dam has specially difficult foundation problems or (e) the dam is of unusual design.

As per "National Register of Large Dams, 2009, the total no of completed large dams in India is 4728 and their gross storage capacity is 280.853 Billion Cubic Metre. The state-wise details of completed large dams and their storage capacity is at Annexure-I.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, the operation and regulation of water in dams/reservoirs is done by respective project authority/ State Government as per their requirement. However, the Government of India has taken up Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for development of adequate delivery system of irrigation water up to farmers' field with an objective to enhance water use efficiency and production and productivity of crops per unit of land and water. The programme is in operation since 1974-75.