

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1720
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
STORAGE CAPACITY OF DAMS
Baske Shri Pulin Bihar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the decreasing capacity of dams to carry water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the storing capacity of all dams particularly Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Panchet, Masajore and Subarnarekha Barrage of West Bengal is decreasing and is one of the causes of flood in West Bengal during the last few years;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the storing capacity of these dams to carry maximum quantity of water;
- (e) whether the State Government of West Bengal has requested the Union Government to provide financial assistance in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details of the funds provided to the Government of West Bengal?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. As per the compendium on silting of reservoirs in India (2001) brought out by Central Water Commission (CWC) in respect of 144 reservoirs in the country, the weighted average annual loss in gross storage capacity due to siltation is computed as 0.44%.

(c) As per the information of capacity survey work available with CWC, the percentage annual loss of gross storage capacity upto the last survey for the reservoirs under DVC is as under:-

S.No.	Name of the Reservoir/River	Year in which survey conducted	Capacity upto the last survey	Percentage annual loss of gross storage
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1	Maithon/Barakar	1994	0.50
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2.	Panchet/Damodar	1996	0.35
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3.	Konar/Konar	1996	0.62
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4.	Tilaiya/Barakar	1997	0.84
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5.	Tenughat/ Damodar	2001	0.32
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As per the last survey tentative projected loss upto 2010 due to situation in dead storage capacity of Massanjore dam was 65% and corresponding live- storage capacity was 15% over a span of 55 years. Subarnarekha Barrage is yet to be constructed, as such the question of accumulation of silt does not arise for this project.

The dams of DVC with specific flood storages are helping in reduction of the floods than causing the floods.

(d) CWC has been conducting the capacity survey since VIII plan. So far, capacity survey of 29 reservoirs has been completed. These capacity survey reports also provide recommendations and suggestions for reservoir operation and soil conservation measures for the catchment area treatment to reduce the rate of siltation, which are to be implemented by the concerned Project Authorities/State Government.

(e) The State Government of West Bengal has requested the 13th Finance Commission that a sum of Rs.1369.00 crore be provided to the state government for undertaking desiltation work in various reservoirs which, inter-alia, comprised Rs.477.00 crore for Massanjore Reservoir.

(f) 13th Finance Commission did not entertain the request and no fund had been provided to the State Government.