

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6873
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
PROJECTS IN SEISMIC ZONES
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ensure that development projects including huge dams, nuclear power plants and hydro power projects are not established in the places falling under high intensity earthquake zones; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Considering the global advancements in the Geo-Technical Engineering and developments in the design, research and construction of dams, India is capable of executing development projects including construction of dams, Nuclear Power Plants and Hydro Power Projects that would withstand a seismic jolt through adequate safety measures that are considered as various levels before locating sites for major projects. This is a continuous process.

Due action/steps have been taken by the Government from time to time as per the recommendations of the Dam Safety Organisation of the Central Water Commission for seismic monitoring of reservoirs such as Koyna and Warna in Maharashtra; Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh and nuclear power sites of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). A set of guidelines for inspection of dams following earthquakes have also been developed in respect of safe operation and maintenance of the existing dams/ reservoirs.

Details of safety requirements for Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) are specified in "code of practice on safety in nuclear power plant siting" and related "safety guides" evolved by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which are in a state of continuing review. The Prime Minister has ordered a comprehensive review of safety mechanisms in respect of nuclear power plants following the Tsunami in Japan.

(b) Does not arise.