

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3095
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
THREAT OF FLOOD FROM DAMS
Deka Shri Ramen

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the unplanned construction of big dams had lead to the recent devastation in Uttarakhand and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to review the big dam projects in the entire country from the point of view of security particularly in Himalayan and North Eastern Regions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the environmental position of surroundings of the big dam projects of Himalayan and North Eastern Regions and the strength of the Himalayan young rocks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) No such specific review of big dams from the point of view of security is contemplated by Government. However, the Government of India has constituted a National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) which advises the Dam owners on dam safety procedures including preparation and development of Emergency Action Plans (EAPs). Besides, the Government of India had also set up a National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) in 1991 which advises the Dam owners on design parameters with respect to safety measures against seismic considerations.

(c)&(d) Dam projects are cleared by Government of India through Central Water Commission (CWC) in respect of irrigation and multi-purpose projects and through Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in respect of hydro-power projects. The process of clearance involves examination from Ministry of Environment & Forests for environmental positions of surroundings of dams and aspects related to strength of Himalayan rocks are examined by Geological Survey of India. After assessing these aspects and obtaining statutory clearance including measures to safeguard the safety of dams and environment during and after construction, the clearance is accorded by Government of India.