

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:145

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015

WATER RESERVOIRS

Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government monitors live storage position/status of reservoirs of the country and if so, the details thereof indicating water level in major reservoirs in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether water storage availability in Southern region reservoirs is less in comparison to availability in other regions and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the initiatives taken for optimal use of water resources in Southern region;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the condition of dams/reservoirs in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 145 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 05.03.2015 REGARDING WATER RESERVOIRS

(a) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage position of 85 reservoirs in the country. As per information available in CWC, water level and live storage in these reservoirs as on 05.10.2011, 04.10.2012, 03.10.2013 and 01.10.2014 are given at Annexure-I.

(b) CWC monitors water levels of 30 reservoirs in the southern region (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana and Tamil Nadu) having total live storage capacity of 51.37 BCM. Filling in the reservoirs of Southern, Northern, Eastern, Western and Central region was 71%, 81%, 82%, 82% and 83% respectively as per reservoir status bulletin dated 01.10.2014 of CWC.

The storage available in reservoirs depends on rainfall received in their catchment area and use of reservoir water by the concerned State Government. The initiatives for optimal utilization of water resources are taken by the respective State Governments. However, in view of forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) that monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be below normal i.e., 95% of the long period average during 2014, Chairman, CWC issued an advisory to all the State Governments for making judicious use of water on 28th April, 2014.

(c) & (d) For assessing the status of the sedimentation of the reservoirs, Hydrographic (Capacity) surveys are undertaken by the State Governments. CWC has also conducted capacity survey of 36 reservoirs in the country. Their details are given at Annexure-II.

Siltation in a reservoir is a natural phenomenon and results in gradual reduction of storage capacity. The reduction in siltation can be achieved by adopting soil conservation measures in the catchment. Such measures are taken by the concerned state governments.

Further, Operation and maintenance of dam comes under the purview of State Governments/Public Sector Units/Project Authorities who own the dams. Dam owners generally carry out pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections of their dams as per the standard Pro-forma or checklist issued by the CWC. They conduct comprehensive dam safety reviews of distressed dams.

CWC provides a guiding and advisory role in matters concerning dam safety. Several guidelines have been prepared by CWC in this regard which have been circulated to the States for appropriate action. Govt. of India has also constituted National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS), which is helping in assimilating the experiences and guiding the dam safety activities in the country.

In order to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams in the Country, Govt. of India has taken up the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with funding assistance from the World Bank. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.2100 crore. Five states namely, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are participating in the above project and have identified 250 dams for rehabilitation under DRIP.