

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:674  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015  
Safety of Mullaiperiyar Dam  
Thomas Prof. Kuruppassery Varkey

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Kerala Government for a study on the safety of the Mullaiperiyar Dam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In 1979, Kerala Government wrote to the Central Government to depute a team from Central Water Commission (CWC) to inspect the dam and suggest strengthening measures.

(c) In pursuance of the request from the Kerala Government, the then Chairman, CWC inspected the dam and held a meeting on 25.11.1979 in which the officers from Tamil Nadu and Kerala participated. In the meeting, three level measures, (i) emergency (ii) medium and (iii) long term, were suggested to strengthen the dam. In the meantime, it was recommended that water level in the reservoir be kept at 136 ft. (41.45 m.). In the second meeting held on 29.04.1980, it was opined that after the completion of emergency and medium-term strengthening measures, the water level in the reservoir can be restored up to 145 ft. (44.2 m.).

Further, the matter was heard by a 5-Judge Constitution Bench of Supreme Court. On 18.02.2010, the Constitution Bench directed the Central Government to constitute an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of former Chief Justice of India and comprising of two members nominated by the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and two renowned technical experts who may examine all aspects including the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam, which may help the Court in deciding the matter effectively. The Empowered Committee submitted its final report on 23.04.2012. The Hon'ble Supreme Court delivered its judgment on 07.05.2014.

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