

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1723

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015

Safety of Dams

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

- (a) the details of dam projects that are structurally unsafe and vulnerable, Statewise;
- (b) the details of the steps taken/being taken to monitor the safety of existing and new dam projects; and
- (c) whether the Government has any data regarding the impact of dams in China and Bhutan on the river Brahmaputra and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(a) & (b) The operation and maintenance of dams 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/checklist issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC). They conduct comprehensive dam safety reviews of distressed dams.

Central Water Commission 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.

As per information available in Central Water Commission, all the states except 9 States/UTs - namely Andaman & Nicobar Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Haryana, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, having very few number of large dams, have the Dam Safety Organisation. The matter regarding constitution of Dam Safety Organizations has been regularly stressed by the CWC during the meetings of National Committee on Dam Safety and through correspondence.

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The Dam Safety Bill, 2010 was introduced in the Parliament on 30th August, 2010. The Bill had a provision for the establishment of Central Dam Safety Organization to oversee the safety of dams in the country. Parliamentary Standing Committee during examination of the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 has also recommended for constitution of an independent regulatory authority to keep an overview of the implementation of the dam safety measures as contemplated in the Dam safety Bill, 2010. The recommendation of the Standing Committee was incorporated in the modified draft of the Bill. However, the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. Further action has been taken up as required under Article 252 of the constitution.

To improve the safety conditions of the existing dams in the country, Govt. of India implemented World Bank funded Dam Safety Assurance Rehabilitation Project (DSARP) in four states of the Indian Union- namely Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu during the period 1991 to 1999. Thirty three (33) dams were rehabilitated under DSARP (Annexure I).

As part of continuous strengthening of the dam safety activities in India, Govt. of India has taken up the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), which has become effective from April 2012. The Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP), is being implemented in seven states, namely Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand with funding assistance from World Bank. About 226 dam projects that are in distressed conditions are included for rehabilitation under this project as per details at Annexure II.

(c) Presently hydro electric projects in Bhutan under construction or under planning are Run of River (RoR) type developments with very little storage to meet the peaking power generation requirements. No adverse impact is expected from these projects in the downstream reaches of the river.

Government of India is aware of construction activity on Yarlung Tsangpo /Brahmaputra River at Zangmu on the Chinese side which is a Run of the River (RoR) hydroelectric project. Recently released 'Outline of the 12th Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China' indicates that three more hydropower projects on the main stream of the Yarlung Tsangpo /Brahmaputra River in Tibet Autonomous Region have been approved for implementation by the Chinese Authorities. Detailed data in this regard is not available to be able to assess the likely impact.
