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Title : Need to take requisite steps for raising the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat.

DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of this House to a very important issue of raising further the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam, which affects not only the entire country but is also the lifeline of Gujarat. Sardar Sarovar Project is a multi-purpose inter-State project. The height of the dam is raised from time to time with permission granted by NCA, that is, Narmada Control Authority. The last permission was granted by NCA in May, 2006 and the height of the dam had been raised up to 121.92 metres in December, 2006 by Gujarat Government. The ultimate height of the dam is to be raised up to 138.68 metres. It will help in the following ways. The storage capacity will get enhanced by 34 lakh acre feet. It would also facilitate irrigation of additional 6.8 lakh hectares of agricultural land. There would also be additional 40 per cent power generation from this project. Flood control is also a major benefit of it. The carry over storage would help mitigate drought, if subsequent years happen to be rain deficit years.

The environment sub-group of NCA has recommended further raising of height of the dam on 1st April, 2010 and similar recommendation from R&R sub-group is also received. The R&R sub-group of NCA is chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have completed the R&R works and also completed the requisite consultations with respective Grievances Redressal Authority, GRA. However, similar consultation with GRA of Maharashtra is pending.

Considering the above status in this matter, it is necessary to expedite the consultation report from the GRA of Maharashtra and thereafter convene a meeting of R&R sub-group of NCA so that it can recommend further raising of height of Sardar Sarovar Dam to NCA.

Under these circumstances, the Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India would be required to take immediate action to call for the consultation report of GRA, Maharashtra and convene the meeting of R&R sub-group of NCA.

I also demand that Sardar Sarovar Project may be declared as a national project.