GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1667**

ANSWERED ON 08.07.2019

**Quantity of water released to Pakistan**

†1667. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more water is being released to Pakistan from Harika Pattan Barrage situated in Tarantaran district than before;

(b) whether more water is being released to Pakistan from Ravi river also than before; and

(c) to what extent the storage capacity has been increased during the last three years to stop the hilly water from flowing into Pakistan, year-wise details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(shri RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Every effort is made to avoid flow of water downstream of international border by controlling the releases from the Bhakra, Pong and Ranjit Sagar (Thein) dams located on Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers respectively. However, the water level in a dam is regulated to moderate probable flow and ensure safety of the dam.

Due to high rainfall during September, 2018, frequent rainfall during January and February, 2019 and the historically high snow accumulation in the catchments, the water in Bhakra, Pong and Ranjit Sagar (Thein) dams reached higher levels this year in comparison to average years.

Accordingly, to safeguard the dam structures and to protect downstream area from flood during the impending monsoon, a consensus decision was taken by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) and the partner States namely Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana to utilize maximum possible water in their canal system before the monsoon and release only the excess water into Pakistan so as to make room for fresh inflows into dam reservoirs during the monsoon. As a result, an average of 7700 cusec of water below Ferozepur barrage, downstream of Harike barrage and 2300 cusec of water below Madhopur barrage on Ravi had to be released between 21stMay to 20th June, 2019.

(c) The storage capacity of reservoirs is regulated by the dam height and cannot be increased. Hence, no storage capacity of these dams has been increased in the last three years

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