GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 108
ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

COMPENSATION PROVIDED UNDER THE DAM SAFETY ACT, 2021

108. DR. AMEE YAJNIK SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of accidents and deaths related to dams, since the commencement of the Dam Safety Act in 2021, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any compensation provision for the people who are suffering or displaced due to accidents related to the dam;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government has consulted with the State Governments before drafting the Dam Safety Act, 2021; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU**)**

(a) No accident and death related to dams has been reported by the State Committees on Dam Safety or State Dam Safety Organisations or the dam owners since the commencement of the Dam Safety Act in December, 2021.

(b) & (c) The water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the concerned State Governments as per their own resources and priority. The Land Acquisition (LA) and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) works of such projects are also carried out by the concerned State Governments.

Further, First Schedule of the Dam Safety Act 2021 inter alia provides that the National Committee on Dam Safety shall "evolve comprehensive dam safety management approach as an integration of dam safety evaluation, risk assessment and risk management for the desired level of safety assurance; and also explore compensations, by means of insurance coverage for the people affected by dam failures".

(d) & (e) Yes. The draft Dam Safety Bill 2016 was circulated by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to all the States and Union Territories on 09.08.2016 for inputs and suggestions. Inputs/comments received from the States were deliberated in the meeting of National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) held at Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee on 18.02.2017, in which 18 States participated. Views and suggestions of States/UTs were taken into account. The draft Bill was accordingly modified and finalized. Subsequently, the Dam Safety Bill, 2018 was introduced in the Parliament on 12.12.2018, which lapsed with dissolution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha. Based on the above Bill, Dam Safety Bill 2019 was introduced again in the Parliament in July 2019 which became an Act in December, 2021.

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