

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2498

ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

BHAKRA AND PONG RESERVOIRS

2498 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bhakra and Pong dams are not filled up to designed Full Reservoir Level (FRL);
- (b) if so, whether by use of latest technology, better planning and weather forecasting, dams could be filled up to FRL; and
- (c) whether Government intends to give directions to Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) to carry out the study for deciding the maximum levels of Bhakra and Pong reservoirs and to make Real-Time Decision Support System operational at the earliest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) The Maximum Reservoir Level of Bhakra Dam is 1,690 ft. and Full Reservoir Level of Pong Dams is 1,400 ft. However, after the devastating floods during the year 1988, Government of India in March 1989, constituted a Committee to report on the problems relating to the operation & maintenance of Bhakra-Nangal and Beas Projects. The said Committee issued guidelines for filling of Bhakra & Pong Reservoirs. In accordance with these guidelines, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in the year 1990 decided that maximum level at Bhakra and Pong reservoirs should be kept 5 feet and 10 feet below the designated FRL respectively, to provide cushion for possible floods. The operation of both the reservoirs is being done after discussing/ deliberating the same in the Technical Committee meeting(s) of BBMB which has representation by Chief Engineers of Irrigation Wing of partner States and the State Power utilities.

(c) BBMB has requested Central Water Commission to provide technical advice regarding maintaining FRL in Bhakra Dam and Pong Dam. BBMB has developed Real Time Decision Support System (RTDSS) for efficient operation of reservoir on river Satluj (Bhakra Dam) and river Beas (Pong Dam) and has already installed Water Level Recording Stations in the catchment area of Satluj and Beas rivers.
