

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1981
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Construction of new dam at Mullapperiyar

1981 DR. V. SIVADASAN:

DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any applications have been received for the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the construction of new dam at Mullapperiyar, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the application has been approved by Government;
- (c) whether the agenda of new Mullapperiyar Dam is included in the EAC (on River Valley and Hydroelectric projects) meetings; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the exclusion of the agenda for the new Mullapperiyar dam from EAC meetings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) The Ministry had received a proposal on Parivesh Portal on 8.05.2024 for grant of Terms of Reference (TOR) for conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for the proposed new Mullaperiyar Dam on Periyar river in an area of 39ha. (CCA 92963 Ha) located at Village Periyar, Taluk Peeumade, District Idukki, Kerala by M/s Irrigation Design & Research Board (IDRB), Govt. of Kerala. In view of inter-state issues involved, the Ministry examined the issue in consultation with Central Water Commission (CWC), Ministry of Jal Shakti. The CWC, vide letter dated 16.07.2024, inter-alia informed that Hon'ble Supreme Court had constituted an Empowered Committee in 2010 to assess the safety aspects of Mullaperiyar dam. Thereafter, vide its Judgement dated 07.05.2014 in Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 the Hon'ble Supreme Court stated that for construction of a new dam across Periyar River by the State of Kerala, there has to be an agreement between the States in this regard and the offer made by Kerala cannot be thrust upon Tamil Nadu. In the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 11.02.2019 in Contempt Petition (C) no. 96 of 2019 in Original Suite No. 3 of 2006 it has been stated that "The question as to whether any study could at all be carried out or not can always be considered and this move on the part of the State of Kerala can be questioned in case the respondents make any application to this court for any such permission".
