

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 878
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026
**REPRESENTATION OF KERALA IN THE MULLAPERIYAR DAM SAFETY EVALUATION
COMMITTEE**

878 Dr. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Dam Safety Authority has removed Kerala's representative from the Independent Expert Committee constituted for the Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation of the Mullaperiyar Dam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government of Kerala was consulted prior to such removal;
- (d) the present composition of the Committee, indicating the State-wise representation of its members; and
- (e) measures taken to ensure adequate representation of Kerala in bodies entrusted with evaluating the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) In pursuance of the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021 and the regulations framed thereunder, the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) constituted an Independent Panel of Experts (IPoE) comprising five members for carrying out the Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE) of the Mullaperiyar Dam, vide Office Memorandum dated 06th January, 2026.

Subsequently, one of the members of the IPoE, who had been nominated by the Government of Kerala, expressed his inability to continue as a member of the Panel due to personal reasons. In order to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of the CDSE process and to maintain the requisite strength and expertise of the Panel, the NDSA nominated another expert in his place.

The replacement was necessitated solely on account of the concerned expert's unavailability and was undertaken in the interest of ensuring the timely completion of the Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation. As the CDSE is a statutory exercise mandated under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, with a prescribed timeline for completion by December 2026, the replacement was made to avoid any disruption or delay in the evaluation process and to ensure compliance with the statutory timeline.

(d) The present composition of the Independent Expert Committee constituted for the CDSE of the Mullaperiyar Dam is given as under:

Sl. No.	Name	Position
1.	Shri Balraj Joshi, Former Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC Ltd	Chairman
2.	Prof. M. L. Sharma, Head, International Centre of Excellence for Dams & Professor, Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee	Member
3.	Shri Gopal Dhawan, Former Executive Director, NHPC Ltd	Member
4.	Shri Gulshan Raj, Former Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission	Member
5.	Shri N. Sivakumar, Former Scientist-E, Central Soil and Materials Research Station	Member

(e) To facilitate the representation of the Government of Kerala in the Independent Panel of Experts constituted for the CDSE of the Mullaperiyar Dam, NDSA wrote to the State on 25th June 2026 to nominate an independent expert to represent Kerala on the Mullaperiyar Dam CDSE's IPoE.
