

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2408
ANSWERED ON 05.03.2020

JURISDICTION OVER DAM SAFETY

2408. SHRI RITESH PANDEY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has departed from State Governments on the jurisdiction over dam safety and if so, the rationale behind the said departure;
- (b) whether all twenty one members of the Dam Safety Committee, including the State appointees, are being chosen by the Union Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the procedure followed regarding the compensation for people affected by dam activities; and
- (d) whether any independent regulatory body is deciding on compensation for the same and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (d) The safety of the dams is the prime responsibility of the State Governments and the dam owners. The Dam Safety Bill (DSB), 2019 proposes an institutional framework and provisions for prevention of dam failure related disaster through proper surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of dams in India. The proposed DSB, 2019 in no way seeks to alter or dilute States' established ownership of dams or their day-to-day roles in the operation and management of dams. Rather, the provisions of the Bill are directed essentially at the empowerment of the States' own dam safety institutional set-up.

The DSB, 2019 has proposed constitution of a National Committee on Dam Safety consisting of upto 21 members which includes upto seven representatives of the State Governments as Members of the Committee.

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. As per the Schedule-I of proposed DSB, 2019, the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) shall also explore compensation by means of insurance coverage for the people affected by dam failures.
