

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3952

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

3952. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is releasing water from its reservoirs without prior consultation/notice of the State Government of West Bengal and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government acknowledges the claim that critical decisions are unilaterally made by the Central Water Commission, disregarding inputs from the said State Government; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that the release of water from DVC reservoirs would be managed collaboratively, transparently and with sufficient notice to prevent disasters like the reported flooding affecting five million people in South Bengal in the past?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) All releases from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) dams are advised by the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) which comprises of the following members:

- i. Member (River Management), Central Water Commission (CWC) and Chairman of DVRRC;
- ii. Chief Engineer (Civil), DVC, Maithon as Member;
- iii. Chief Engineer, Irrigation & Waterways Directorate, Government of West Bengal (GoWB) as Member;
- iv. Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Government of Jharkhand (GoJ) as Member;
- v. Superintending Engineer, Hydrological Observation Circle, CWC, Maithon as Member Secretary

Decisions regarding releases from the DVC dams are always made by DVRRC in consultation with all the members from CWC, DVC, Government of West Bengal and Government of Jharkhand. Further, there are strict directions regarding timelines for sharing information with downstream States as per DVRRC Manual. As a followup to the decisions taken in the DVRRC meeting, prior information regarding such releases are timely disseminated by DVC to GoWB *via* 'Email', 'WhatsApp group messages', 'Flood warning

module' in DVC's portal on a real-time basis. These timely information about the flood water release and warning to that effect are provided to all stakeholders and public at large, in order to avoid any destruction and loss of life and property located in the downstream areas that could be affected by such flood water releases. Standard Operating Procedures regarding the same are encapsulated in the DVRRC Manual and provide a ready reference to all the parties for strict adherence. Moreover, as per the provisions of Dam Safety Act, 2021, DVC also has an Emergency Action Plan for the Maithon and Panchet dams.
