

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 584**

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

**NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY**

584. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE

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

- (a) whether the Government has any data of the meetings held and decisions taken by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) since its constitution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government will ensure that dams situated in one State and operated by another be taken over by the NDSA;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether it is true that NDSA has conducted any comprehensive safety audit of dams before hundred years across the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b)** Pursuant to the provisions of the Dam Safety Act 2021, the Central Government has established the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) for overseeing dam safety activities across the country and to implement the policy, guidelines and standards evolved by the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) for proper surveillance, inspection and maintenance of specified dams. The Authority has so far held several discussions and meetings with the States for carrying out its designated functions under the Dam Safety Act, 2021. Following major decisions have been taken by the NDSA in this regard:

- i. Various National Workshops/ International Conference have been organized for awareness/ sensitisation related to implementation of various provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021.
- ii. Regional Review meetings are held regularly with all State Dam Safety Organizations (SDSOs) to review the implementation of the Dam Safety Act 2021 and States' preparedness for managing monsoon flood. So far, 11 Regional Review meetings were held.
- iii. As per compliance of Section 54 (1) of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, the NDSA has to frame 19 dam safety regulations. All these 19 regulations have been prepared and approved by the

NCDS. Out of 19 regulations, 17 regulations have been published in the official Gazette of India.

- iv. NDSA is maintaining nationwide database for all the specified dams in Dam Health Rehabilitation and Monitoring Application (DHARMA) portal. All State Dam Safety Organizations have been directed to fill up all the concerned data of their respective dams in the portal. Moreover, they have also been instructed to upload the reports of all pre-monsoon, post-monsoon and special inspection (if any) on the DHARMA portal,
- v. NDSA also held several meetings with the States/ other dam owning agencies for measures to be taken in case of dams likely to be affected by Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and installation of early warning systems.
- vi. NDSA is also providing secretarial assistance to the National Committee on Dam Safety and its sub-committees. So far, 9 meetings of NCDS have been held.
- vii. NDSA has also taken up the study related to Rapid Risk Assessment of all the specified dams in the country. Rapid Risk Screening Tool has been developed for this purpose. Multiple trainings/ workshops have been organized by NDSA for the officials of State/ other dam owning organizations.
- viii. Outreach programs at the 25 iconic dam sites across the country were organized with community participation under “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)” for promoting Dam Tourism.

**(c) & (d)** For those dams which are located in one State and operated by another, National Dam Safety Authority is functioning as the State Dam Safety Organisation as per the provisions of the Act. Accordingly, necessary directions are being given by the Authority to the owner of such dams for making compliance of various provisions and other mandated functions as per the Act. Hence, there is no question of taking control over these types of dams by the Authority.

Responsibility to ensure the safety of dams, including their operation and maintenance, rests primarily with dam owners, which are mostly the State Governments and Central/State Public Sector Units. Dam Safety Act 2021 does not, in any way, encroach upon the power of the States and does not contain any provision to alter dam ownership, water sharing agreements or the operation and maintenance of the dams by the State governments.

**(e) & (f)** As per Section 38 of the Dam Safety Act 201, the responsibility for carrying out the comprehensive safety audit of dams rests with the dam owners. Hence, NDSA has not conducted the comprehensive safety audit of any dam in the country.

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