

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *133

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY

*133. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has mandated the Union Government to constitute the National Dam Safety Authority and conduct a safety audit of the dams in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the States where such safety audit has been conducted;
- (c) whether the safety audit of Mullaperiyar dam is in the list and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether the Government proposes to conduct an audit at Mullaperiyar dam at the earliest and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *133 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AUTHORITY”

(a) to (d) No. Pursuant to the provisions of the Dam Safety Act 2021, the Central Government, after the passage of the Dam Safety Act 2021 by the Parliament in December 2021, established the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) in February 2022 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.

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.

Further, as per section 31 of the Dam Safety Act 2021, every owner of a specified dam has been mandated to undertake annually, through their Dam Safety Units, a pre-monsoon and post- monsoon inspection in respect of each specified dam and to forward the inspection report to the concerned State Dam Safety Organization, which further analyses the report and provide comments on safety, deficiency and remedial measures, if any, to the owner of the specified dam.

Accordingly, the pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections of all the specified dams including the Mullaperiyar dam are being carried out by their Dam Safety Unit, constituted for that purpose.

Dam Safety Act, 2021 also mandates the comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each of the specified dam by an independent panel of experts. As per Section 38 of the Act, the responsibility for carrying out the comprehensive safety audit of dams rests with the dam owners and States only. Responsibility of conducting the comprehensive dam safety evaluation of the Mullaperiyardam rests with the Water Resources Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, being the owner of this dam.
