

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 872

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

DESILTING OF DAMS IN BUNDELKHAND REGION

872. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that farmers frequently face acute water scarcity due to erratic rainfall in the Bundelkhand region including Jhansi and Lalitpur districts and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that several major and minor dams in this region have accumulated 40% to 60% silt thereby significantly reducing their water storage capacity and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate desilting and restoration works for these dams to enhance their holding capacity and improve agricultural benefits and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the current storage capacity of key dams in the region, including Sirsagar (363.93 MCM), Shahzad (321.00 MCM), Matatila (641–742 MCM), Sukhnai (52.00 MCM), Saprar (76.00 MCM), etc.; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to restore the full capacity of these dams and ensure sustainable irrigation support to farmers in the region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation in a region, the water availability may result in water stress conditions. As per the data available, against the normative rainfall of 817 mm per year, the average actual rainfall in districts Jhansi and Lalitpur has been 669 mm (82%) and 810 mm (99%) in last 7 years.

(b) to (e) Dam owners, which are mostly the State Government, generally conduct the capacity survey of their dams at regular intervals for evaluating their lifespan and ensuring optimal reservoir operations. As per the information provided by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Central Water Commission, the reported loss in gross storage capacity of the Matatila Dam, Rajghat Dam, Saprar Dam (all three dams located in Uttar Pradesh) and Pagara dam (Madhya Pradesh), which have been surveyed, is 31.14%, 6.25%, 8.50% & 17.88% respectively due to siltation. The current storage capacity of the Matatila Dam, Rajghat Dam, Saprar Dam and Pagara dam located in Bundelkhand region is 678.71 Million Cubic Metre (MCM),

2036.34 MCM, 69.66 MCM and 98.87 MCM against their original capacity of 985.65 MCM, 2172 MCM, 76.20 MCM and 120.4 MCM.

Water/irrigation being a state subject, planning, execution and operation and maintenance of irrigation projects including repairing and strengthening of dams, embankments and canals are carried out by the State Governments from their own resources and as per their own requirements and priority of works. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to state governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes/programmes such as Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP-II&III), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) etc.
