

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2001

ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

REGULATION OF BHAKRA AND PONG DAMS

†2001. SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Bhakra and Pong Dams are currently being regulated below their Full Reservoir Level (FRL), namely Pong Dam at approximately 1290–1352 feet and Bhakra Dam at approximately 1560–1633 feet thereby affecting water availability in districts such as Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Barmer in Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reason for not filling the Bhakra and Pong dams to their full levels despite the water level of the Pong dam being found to be safe and there being sufficient rainfall and water storage capacity throughout the year; and
- (c) the time by which the Real-Time Decision Support System (RTDSS) developed under the Hydrology Project of BBMB would become fully functional to raise the water level of these dams safely to full level and increase the availability of water and power in Rajasthan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The designed Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of Bhakra and Pong Dams are 1685 ft and 1400 ft respectively. After the devastating floods during the year 1988, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in its 138th & 139th meetings held on 19.07.1990 and 29.08.1990 respectively, had decided that the maximum water level at Bhakra and Pong reservoirs should be kept 1680 ft and 1390 ft respectively, for storage purposes to cater for any flood eventuality occurring in late monsoon months.

In respect to Bhakra Dam, on the basis of recommendations of Central Water Commission (CWC), BBMB decided that the current operating criteria for maintaining the reservoir level at El. 1680 feet may continue.

In respect of the Pong Dam, keeping in view CWC recommendations, BBMB in its 249th meeting held on 06.09.2024 decided that considering the constraints in the carrying capacity of Beas River in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab downstream of the Pong Dam, the Full Reservoir Level of the dam be kept at EL-1390 ft so as to save life and property in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

The BBMB has developed and installed network of Real Time Data Acquisition System (RTDAS) devices in the catchment of its dams (Bhakra, Pong and Pandoh). These devices/sensors such as Automatic Water Level Recorder (AWLR), Automatic Weather Station (AWS), Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) and Flowmeter etc. provides real time information and status of the basin in terms of water level of the river, rainfall, temperature/moisture conditions etc.

The BBMB is regulating the waters of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers and distribution of water of these rivers among partner states in accordance with Inter-state agreements entered into by partner states. Partner States project the irrigation and domestic requirements of their respective States in the monthly Technical Committee Meetings (TCM) of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) which is then released by BBMB from the Reservoirs as per the decision taken in the aforesaid meeting.
