

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2253

ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY

2253. SHRI CHAVAN RAVINDRA VASANTRAO:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:

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

- (a) whether the eleventh meeting of the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) was held recently in New Delhi and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the key agenda discussed, major decisions taken and recommendations made in the said meeting;
- (c) the details of experts from various States and institutions who participated in the said meeting;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to review the structural health monitoring system, emergency action plans and ageing dams and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee particularly for dams located in seismically vulnerable and flood-prone regions of the country; and
- (f) whether the Government has made any financial provision to strengthen dam safety mechanisms across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Yes. The 11th Meeting of the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) was convened on 20th January, 2026 in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the official members of the Committee, with the Heads of State Dam Safety Organisations participating as special invitees. The proceedings were conducted under the chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Water Commission, who also serves as the Chairman of the NCDS.

(b) Several policy-related issues critical for the implementation of various provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021 were deliberated upon during the NCDS meeting. The agenda items included, inter alia:

- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Comprehensive Dam Safety Evaluation (CDSE) [Sections 38–40] ;
- SOP for Pre-Initial Filling Plan [Section 27] ;
- Financial remuneration of national and international dam safety experts;
- Framework finalisation for Level-2 (SQRA) Risk Assessment studies under Section 35(2) ;
- Regulation for defining “Under Construction” dams/barrages and their compliance requirements;

- Approval mechanism for new dam projects and rehabilitation of existing projects [Section 26], including references from MoEF&CC;
- Mechanism for appraisal and approval of various non-structural documents.

The committee conducted a thorough review of the agenda items, engaging in detailed discussions to address key challenges and opportunities in implementation. They issued clear, actionable directions to all stakeholders, emphasizing timelines, resource allocation and accountability measures to ensure the timely rollout of critical activities and frameworks.

(c) List of participants/experts from various States and institutions who participated in the 11th NCDS meeting is given at **Annexure**.

(d) The responsibility for the safety of dams, including their operation, maintenance, monitoring, safety audit and surveillance, rests primarily with the dam owners. In accordance with the provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, every owner of a specified dam is mandated to conduct annual pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections in respect of each specified dam for monitoring the performance of such dam. As per this compliance, dam owning agencies have reported the pre-monsoon & post-monsoon inspections of about 6524 and 6553 dams respectively for the year 2025.

Further, in compliance of Section 32 of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, National Dam Safety Authority published in April, 2024, a regulation titled “Inspection, Instrumentation, Seismic Data, Risk Assessment and Evaluation of Specified Dam Regulation, 2024, detailing the Minimum number of sets of instrumentation required at the dam for monitoring the performance of specified dams, and other details such as technical documentation, analysis, calibration, installation procedures etc.

The Act also mandated the requirement for preparing the Emergency Action Plan (EAP)/Disaster Management in respect of each specified dam. As of now, EAP for 362 specified dams have been completed by the dam owners.

(e) Recommendations of the National Committee are being implemented through well-defined institutional mechanisms, prioritized safety assessments, and dedicated funding programmes, such as the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase-II and Phase-III. Special emphasis is being placed on high-risk dams located in seismic zones and flood-prone regions, where risk classification frameworks and enhanced monitoring protocols are being systematically applied.

(f) The Dam Safety Act, 2021 stipulates that “Every owner of the specified dam shall earmark sufficient and specific funds for maintenance and repairs of the dam and for implementing the recommendations of the State Dam Safety Organisation.” Since dams in India are owned, operated, and maintained by State Government Departments/Boards, Central/State Public Sector Undertakings, or private agencies, the funds required for routine operation, maintenance (O&M), and rehabilitation are allocated by the respective agencies through their annual budgets.

Further, in order to improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams across the country along with institutional strengthening for dam safety, Govt. of India is implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with external funding. Under the World Bank funded DRIP Phase-I program, 223 dams located in seven States were audited and rehabilitated. After completion of DRIP Phase-I programme in March 2021, Government of India has taken up DRIP Phase-II & III scheme. The Scheme envisages rehabilitation and safety improvement of 736 dams located in 19 States, with a budget outlay of Rs. 10,211 crore. The scheme is of 10 years duration. DRIP Phase-II has become operational from 12th October 2021, and is being co-financed by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2253 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.02.2026 REGARDING “NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON DAM SAFETY”.

List of participants who attended the 11th NCDS meeting

S. No	Name (Sh./Smt./Dr./Ms.)	Designation	Organisation	Position in NCDS
1	Anupam Prasad	Chairman	CWC	Chairman
2	Anil Jain	Chairman	NDSA	Member
3	Reading Shimray	Member (D&R)	CWC	Member
4	M G Gokhale	Member (Hydro)	CEA	Member
5	Pradeep Kumar Agrawal	Joint Secretary (RD &PP)	DoWR RD & GR	Member
7	Yogendra Pal Singh	Scientist-'F'	MoEF&CC	Member
8	Rahul Saxena	Scientist G	IMD	Member
9	Dr. P. K. Gajbhiye	Director, EPE, DGCO	GSI	Member
10	B. Simhadri Rao	Scientist-G	NRSC	Member
11	M. S. Hanumanthappa	Scientist 'D'	CWPRS	Member
12	K. G. Mahesh	Director	Karnataka	Member
13	Sukhjeet Singh Bhullar	Chief Engineer Vigilance & QA	Punjab	Member
15	Zodinthari	Engineer-in-chief	Mizoram	Member
16	Niranjan Rout	Chief Engineer	Odisha	Member
17	S. A. TATU	Director General	Maharashtra	Member
18	Soran Singh	Engineer-in-Chief (Project)	Uttar Pradesh	Member
19	S. K. Sibal	Ex-Member (D&R)	Expert member	Member
20	Yogendra Singh	Professor	IIT Roorkee	Member
21	Chandan Singh	Under Secretary	NDMA	Member
22	Pramod Narayan	Member (P&R, NDSA)	NDSA	Member Secretary
23	Manoj Kumar	SJC(PR)	DoWR RD & GR	Special Invitee
24	Jayanta Kumar Das	General Manager (Civil)	APGCL	Special Invitee
25	Mahmood Alam	Chief Engineer	SDSO Patna	Special Invitee
26	Mr. P.K.Pal	Project Director	Chhattisgarh	Special Invitee
27	S.S. Pagar	Head & Chief Engineer	SDSO Maharashtra	Special Invitee
28	B. Wann	Head & Additional Chief Engineer	SDSO Meghalaya	Special Invitee
29	S. Karthikeyan	Superintending Engineer	SDSO Chennai	Special Invitee
30	Shankar Kumar Saha	Chairman	SDSO, Uttarakhand	Special Invitee
