

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4517  
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026**

**STRUCTURAL DEFLECTION IN BHAKRA DAM**

**4517. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:**

**Will the Minister of POWER  
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is true that Bhakra Dam has recorded a maximum structural deflection of 1.17770 inches this year compared to the original static loading limit of 1.03 inches and subsequent reading of 1.04 inches demonstrates partial recovery toward the design envelope, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has confirmed that the deflection has exceeded the original permissible level and corrective measures initiated and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether BBMB proposes to engage international experts through the National Dam Safety Authority to examine increased deflection and if so, the timeline and terms of reference along with the details of communication with Ministry of Jal Shakti in this regard;
- (d) whether controlled drawdown is planned for the coming summer targeting between 1,490 and 1,510 feet and if so, the rationale behind it;
- (e) whether desiltation operations would also take place during drawdown and if so, details thereof; and
- (f) the present status of real-time monitoring of deflection, seepage and stress at the Bhakra Dam?

**A N S W E R**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER**

**(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)**

**(a) & (b) : As intimated by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Bhakra Dam recorded a maximum deflection of 1.1770 inches on 19.11.2025, whereas the design limiting value for deflection under non-seismic conditions is 1.03 inches, as per the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) trial load study, 1964. As on 10.03.2026, the deflection of dam is about 0.9623 inches.**

**The following corrective measures have been initiated by BBMB:**

- (i) **BBMB has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Centre for Excellence in Dams (ICED), IIT Roorkee to address issues related to BBMB dams, including the deflection of Bhakra Dam.**

**(ii) Building consensus among partner States for drawdown of the Bhakra reservoir close to the Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) of 1462 feet before the arrival of upcoming monsoon.**

**(c) : As of now, BBMB does not propose to engage international experts through the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA).**

**(d) : A controlled drawdown of the Bhakra Dam reservoir has been planned by BBMB in the coming summer. The proposal to lower the reservoir level up to the Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) of 1462 feet has been deliberated in various Technical Committee Meetings (TCMs) since the monsoon of 2025 to build consensus among the partner states. By lowering the reservoir level to MDDL, it would ensure completion of Full Reservoir Level (FRL) – Minimum Draw Down Level (MDDL) cycle and restoration of the structural elasticity of the dam.**

**(e) : Desiltation operations would also be undertaken during the reservoir drawdown period. The initiation and continuation of desiltation activities at a particular site depend on the reservoir reaching specific water levels during the drawdown phase.**

**(f) : Periodic monitoring of deflection, stress and strain is being done through instruments installed at the time of construction of the Bhakra Dam. Seepage is tracked and managed through drainage and grouting galleries/drain holes in the dam body, foundation and abutments. As on 10.03.2026, the values of deflection, seepage and stress are within permissible limits.**

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