

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1997
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

SAFETY OF DAMS IN THE COUNTRY

1997. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY

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

- (a) whether Government is working on safety of dams in the country, after enactment of Dam Safety Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken with a reliable and legally mandated institutional mechanism for the upkeep of large dams, State wise;
- (c) whether any committee of experts formed or technical experts consulted for better maintenance and safety of large dams in the country; and
- (d) the role of States in this regard and whether States have been duly consulted?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) Following the enactment of the Dam Safety Act 2021, Government of India has issued notifications dated 17.2.2022 for Constitution and Terms of Reference of National Committee on Dam Safety & National Dam Safety Authority. The National Committee on Dam Safety will evolve uniform dam safety policies, protocols, and procedures, while the National Dam Safety Authority will function as a regulatory body for ensuring the nationwide implementation of Dam Safety policies and standards.

The States have also been requested to constitute the State Committee on Dam Safety and State Dam Safety Organisations as per the provisions of the Act. This would ensure proper surveillance, inspections, operations and maintenance of all specified dams in that State and to also ensure their safe functioning.

In order to improve the safety and operational performance of select existing dams in the country, Government of India has been implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) programme. DRIP Phase-I Scheme has been completed in March 2021, wherein 223 existing dams in 7 States were comprehensively rehabilitated with funding assistance from the World Bank. After completion of DRIP Phase-I programme, Government of India has now taken up DRIP Phases-II & III. This scheme envisages rehabilitation of 736 dams located in 19 States with a budget outlay of Rs 10,211 crore. The Scheme is of 10 years duration. DRIP-II Scheme has become operational from 12th October, 2021, and is being co-financed by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
