

Regarding construction of a new dam to replace the
Mullaperiyar dam-laid

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): The Mullaperiyar dam is one of the oldest dams in the country. The Dam is situated in an earthquake prone zone, and it poses a threat to the life of five million people living downstream. The dam is built with primitive technology and has time and again a reason for much anxiety regarding its safety. It was reported that a crack had developed in the dam following an earthquake in 1979. However, no steps have been taken to ensure that new dam is built in its place to ensure safety of the people who live downstream. According to the Dam Safety Act, 2021 - it is moot that the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) must perform the role of State Dam Safety Organisation since the dam is located in one state (Kerala) and operated by another (Tamil Nadu). Hence, the Union Government must ensure that NDSA will subsume the functions of supervisory committee that should ensure the construction of a new dam which will ensure safety for Kerala and water for Tamil Nadu. This will lead to a long term, sustainable solution to the dispute. I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so that a new dam may be built.