

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 551

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

STRENGTHENING OF MULLAPERIYAR BABY DAM

551. MR. TAMILSELVAN THANGA

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to strengthen the Mullaperiyar Baby Dam to enhance its structural integrity and safety;
- (b) if so, the expected timeline for completion of this work;
- (c) whether there are any measures being taken to maintain the water level of the Mullaperiyar dam at 152 feet and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the steps being taken to address this issue promptly?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Operation and maintenance of the Mullaperiyar Dam lies with the owner of the dam i.e. Government of Tamil Nadu. Accordingly, the strengthening measures of the dam has to be carried out by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

In 1979, Central Water Commission (CWC) had suggested short term, medium term and long term measures for safety of Mullaperiyar dam. Under long term measures, strengthening of Baby dam was recommended. Further, an expert committee was set up by the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India in 2000 to study the problem of dam safety in Mullaperiyar dam and raising of the water level in Mullaperiyar reservoir. The committee in its final report (March 2001) apart from recommending to raise the water level to +142 feet, recommended to strengthen the Baby dam and earthen dam and few other works.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 27.02.2006, among others directed to raise the water level to 142 ft. and permitted the State of Tamil Nadu to carry out further strengthening measures as suggested by CWC and directed the State of Kerala to cooperate in the matter.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 07.05.2014 too ordered to carry out the strengthening measures (as suggested by CWC), as per the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.02.2006.

Supervisory Committee on Mullaperiyar Dam was constituted on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court as per order dated 07.05.2014 and later on reconstituted in 2022. The matter of strengthening of Baby Dam and Earthen Dam is regularly being deliberated in all its meetings.

(c) & (d) The Hon'ble Supreme court in its judgement dated 27.02.2006 directed that after the completion of strengthening measures (as suggested by CWC and Expert Committee) to the satisfaction of the CWC, independent experts would examine the safety aspects before the water level is permitted to be raised to 152ft. Further, as per the judgement dated 07.05.2014 of Hon'ble Supreme Court, water level is allowed to raise up to 142 ft. and ultimately to 152 ft. after completion of further strengthening measures on the Mullaperiyar Dam as per its earlier judgement.

At present, the water level could not be raised up to 152 ft. in the dam due to non-completion of balance strengthening measures recommended by CWC and Expert Committee. These works could not get completed due to non-issuance of permission by Government of Kerala.

To provide necessary clearances by Government of Kerala, Supervisory Committee on Mullaperiyar Dam is regularly deliberating the matter of long pending balance strengthening works of dam with both the State Governments in all its meetings.
