

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5409

ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

**REMOVAL OF TREES TO STRENGTHEN AND DEVELOP
MULLAPERIYAR's BABY DAM**

5409. THIRU THANGA TAMILSELVAN

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the presence of around 27 huge trees standing on Mullaperiyar's baby dam which is 240 feet long and 8 feet wide, built parallel to the main dam, are meant to abolish all the excess water goes up in the main dam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would take necessary steps to get necessary permission from the Forest Department to fell down these 27 huge trees to strengthen and develop the said baby dam; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Mullaperiyar dam consists of Main dam, Natural mound, Baby dam and Earth dam in one alignment. Baby dam is not parallel to Main dam. The height of the Baby dam is 53 feet and width is 38 feet at bottom and 12 feet at the top and length is 240 feet. Baby dam and Earth dam are in the left flank and the spillway is in the right flank, which is meant for discharging the excess water above the allowable storage level. Baby dam is for storing water in the reservoir. In the downstream of the Baby dam, there are no huge trees, only 15 medium and small trees exist, as corroborated by the Supervisory Committee for the Mullaperiyar Dam in its various communications as well as the affidavit filed by the Supervisory Committee in respect of Writ Petition No. 880 of 2020 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 04.07.2023.

Strengthening the Baby dam and Earth dam was ordered in the Interim Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 27.02.2006 and the same was also reiterated in the Judgement dated 07.05.2014 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

However, the strengthening works of the baby dam & earthen dam could not be taken-up, as the permission order for the felling of trees downstream of the baby dam, granted earlier by Government of Kerala was revoked.

Government of Tamil Nadu had applied in PARIVESH 1.0 portal for granting permission to fell the trees downstream of baby dam in year 2015; and, the permission was granted in 2021. However, the permission was revoked within few days. Government of Kerala has requested Government of Tamil Nadu to apply for the permission afresh on PARIVESH 2.0 portal of Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.
