

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2847
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
NARMADA DAM
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Gujarat and some other State Governments alongwith the Union Government have approached the Supreme Court to increase the height of Narmada Dam;
- (b) if so, the proposals mooted in this regard; and
- (c) the directions issued by the Supreme Court and Narmada Control Authority on the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The Narmada Bachao Andolan filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994 against the construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam in the Supreme Court of India.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 18th October, 2000 permitted to raise the dam height upto elevation level (EL) 90 metre (m) and laid down the procedure to be followed by the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) for permitting to raise the dam height beyond EL 90.0m. Accordingly further raising of the height of the dam has to be carried out pari-passu with the implementation of the relief & rehabilitation and environmental safeguard measures. The permission to raise the dam height beyond EL 90.0m shall be given by the NCA, from time to time, after it obtains clearance from the Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Sub-group and Environment Sub-group. The R&R Sub-group will give clearance only after consulting three Grievance Redressal Authorities of the three State Governments. Based on the said decision of the Apex Court, the NCA has finalized an Action Plan to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam upto EL 110.0 m by June, 2003 and upto its full height EL 138.68 m by June 2005. But due to the huge magnitude of the work involved in the R&R of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) to be carried out by the respective State Governments and the human angle involved in the implementation of the R&R, the dam could be raised upto EL 100 m by June 2003 subsequent to the clearances given by the R&R Sub-group, Environment Sub-group and also the NCA.