

## RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 28th December, 1989/7th  
Pausa, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 61.

#### Standing Committee on Safety Review of Big Dams

\*61. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-  
PAYEE: Will the Minister of WATER  
RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the  
answer to Unstarred Question 2948 given  
in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August,  
1989 and state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee  
on safety review of big Dams had recom-  
mended in July, 1986 that safety review  
of dams which are more than 15 metres  
high or store 50,000 acre-feet or more  
of water be conducted by States once in  
ten years;

(b) if so, what is the number of such  
dams Statewise and how many of these

have been reviewed for safety along with  
the findings thereof; and

(c) what is the number of dams State-  
wise for which safety review has not been  
conducted so far though it is overdue  
and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES  
(SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA): (a)  
Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) A Statement giving the  
Statewise number of such dams is laid  
on the Table of the House. (See below).

The State Governments have been ad-  
vised to carry out such safety review by  
independent inter-disciplinary panel of  
experts. As a first step, 12 States, hav-  
ing significant number of dams, have  
set up dam safety cells. States have  
also referred 23 problems associated  
with the safety of dams to the Dam Sa-  
fety Organization of the Central Water  
Commission. On these cases, approp-  
riate advice has been given to the States.  
However, independent panel of experts  
are yet to be constituted by the States  
for the safety review.

#### Statement

#### STATEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE DAMS

(Height more than 15 M. or storage more than 60 million cubic metre)

Information received upto July, 1989.

S. No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh . . . . .	84
2.	Assam . . . . .	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh . . . . .	1
4.	Bihar . . . . .	78
5.	Gujarat . . . . .	244
6.	Goa . . . . .	5
7.	Haryana . . . . .	..
8.	Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir . . . . .	9

1	2	3
10.	Karnataka . . . . .	89
11.	Kerala . . . . .	49
12.	Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	323
13.	Maharashtra . . . . .	950
14.	Manipur . . . . .	4
15.	Meghalaya . . . . .	6
16.	Mizoram . . . . .	..
17.	Nagaland . . . . .	..
18.	Orissa . . . . .	94
19.	Punjab . . . . .	2
20.	Rajasthan . . . . .	55
21.	Sikkim . . . . .	..
22.	Tamil Nadu . . . . .	91
23.	Tripura . . . . .	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	75
25.	West Bengal . . . . .	11
TOTAL :		2349

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, बड़ी मात्रा में धन खर्च करके बांधों का निर्माण किया जाता है। यह बांध वर्षों तक हमारी सिचाई और अन्य आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने वाले हैं, लेकिन इन बांधों की देखभाल का काम जितनी चुस्ती से होना चाहिए, नहीं हो रहा है, मंत्री महोदय के उत्तर से भी यह स्पष्ट है कि यद्यपि 25 राज्य हैं, लेकिन इन 25 राज्यों में से केवल 12 राज्यों ने अपने राज्य में बांधों की सुरक्षा के लिये सेलों का निर्माण किया है। अन्य राज्यों में क्या हो रहा है, सदन यह जानना चाहेगा। अगर मंत्री महोदय कहें कि उनके पास जानकारी नहीं है और जानकारी एकत्रित करके बताएंगे तो अलग बात है, लेकिन मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि जो जानकारी उनके पास है, यह सदन के सामने रखेंगे।

SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, I have got the information. As per the recommendations of the Standing Com-

mittee, it was recommended that those States who have got a significant number of dams, more than 10 big dams, they would constitute this cell. There are only 12 States who have got more than 10 dams.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: May I quote the reply? "As a first step, 12 States, having a significant number of dams, have set up dam safety cells." Am I to understand that other States have not been included because the number of dams in those States is less than 10?

SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA: Yes, Sir. It is true. A statement is given here.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, another supplementary in his reply the hon. Minister says that independent panels of experts are yet to be constitu-

ted by the States for safety review. Does that mean that each and every State has to constitute an independent panel or will the constitution of a panel only apply to those who have more than 10 dams? What will happen to those States who don't have 10 dams but the dams they have are very important and their safety must be looked into?

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** Sir, those who do not have more than 10 dams have got their own machinery and they can look after themselves. Let me submit that independent cells are to be formed by the States. We are advising the States repeatedly. We are holding periodical meetings also advising them to form these cells.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** सभापति जी,

**श्री सभापति :** आपके दो सवाल हो गए।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** लेकिन जवाब तो एक का भी नहीं हुआ... (व्यवधान)

**श्री सभापति :** यह उनका "मेड इन एपियरेंस" है। श्री राम चन्द्र विकल।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** सभापति जी, विकल में और अटल में कोई फर्क नहीं है।

**श्री राम चन्द्र विकल :** आप आगे हैं, मैं पीछे हूँ, इतना फर्क तो है ही।

सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन से राज्य हैं जिन्होंने अभी तक सेल नहीं बनाए हैं। उनके नाम और संख्या बताएं। दूसरे सरकार की ओर से उन्हें कब-कब चेतावनी सेल बनाने के बारे में दी गयी है?

**श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया :** महोदय, जिन्होंने सेल नहीं बनाए हैं उन राज्यों के नाम हैं—आसाम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, ग्रेवा, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू और काश्मीर, मणिपुर, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, पंजाब, सिक्किम और त्रिपुरा। इन राज्यों ने सेल नहीं बनाया है और

इन राज्यों को 87 में ही कहा गया है कि आप सेल बना लीजिए।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** हरियाणा में कोई डैम नहीं है ?

**श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया :** हरियाणा में कोई डैम नहीं है।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** आपका कभी नहीं है ?

**श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया :** हां, डैम एक भी नहीं है।

**श्री राम नरेश यादव :** महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्रीजी के उत्तर में जानना चाहूंगा कि आपने कहा है कि बांध सुरक्षा संगठन को बांध की सुरक्षा से सम्बंधित 23 समस्याओं के बारे में सूचित किया गया है। इन मामलों में राज्यों को उचित सलाह दी गयी है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो उपयुक्त सलाह दी गयी है वह कौनसी उपयुक्त सलाह है ? उच्चम, कौन-कौन से मुद्दे हैं जिनकी सूचना राज्य सरकारों को दी गयी है और कितने ऐसे राज्य हैं जिन्होंने इस सलाह को माना है ?

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** They have agreed in principle but for lack of financial resources, they have not as yet implemented this scheme.

**श्री राम नरेश यादव :** कितने राज्यों ने आपकी उच्च सलाह का स्वागत किया है, माना है या उसे इम्प्लीमेंट किया है ?

**श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया :** सभी 12 राज्यों ने।

**श्री राम नरेश यादव :** वे कौन-कौन से राज्य हैं जिन्होंने पालन किया है ?

**श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया :** मैंने बताया कि 12 राज्य हैं।

**PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:** Mr. Chairman, it is good that 12 States have set up safety cells. Mere setting up of safety cells will not solve the problem,

We would like to know what is the level of those cells, who are the people who are manning them. I would like to know from the Minister out of the 12 States where these cells have been set up, what has been the level of those cells, what has been the constitution, whether that information is available with him. If so, I would like to know whether the cells that have been set up are having sufficient powers, as well as expertise with them to look after the safety which is the major thrust of this question.

SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA: For that, I require notice.

श्री अजीत जोगी : मान्यवर, बड़े बांधों के संबंध में एक तकनीकी बात स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आई है कि जिन स्थानों में ये बड़े बांध बनाए जाते हैं वहां सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा को खतरा बना रहता है। इसके साथ ही एक बहुत बड़ा नुकसान जो बड़े बांधों से होता है, वह यह भी है कि बड़े बांध बनाए जाने से बहुत बड़ा इलाका डूब में आता है और डूब में बहुधा पहाड़ी इलाके के आदिवासी और गरीब लोग प्रभावित होते हैं। इन दोनों बांधों को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या शासन कोई ऐसा नीतिगत निर्णय लेने लायक है जिससे कि भविष्य में बड़े बांध कम बनाए जाएं और उनके स्थान पर छोटे और मध्यम बांध बनाए जाएं। जिससे न तो सुरक्षा का खतरा रहे और न ही आदिवासियों और दूसरे पहाड़ पर रहने वाले लोगों के डूब में आ जाने के कारण वहां से विस्थापित हो जाने का खतरा रहे। तो क्या ऐसा कोई नीतिगत निर्णय सरकार द्वारा लिया जाएगा?

SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, the question of the hon. Member is something else. I do not think it is within the scope of this question.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Sir, it is relevant. It is totally relevant. Are you going to take a policy decision that you will discourage construction of big dams and henceforth only small and medium dams should be constructed? Is the Government thinking on those lines?

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, how can the Minister say it is

irrelevant? It is for the Chair to decide that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He submitted it to me and I agree with him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is the ruling of the Chair. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anand Sharma.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Sir, I seek protection from you.

The question is relevant. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: ...the supplementary does not arise out of this question.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Minister has given a Statewise break-up of the number of dams which are there, the States which have complied so far with the requirement of setting up of safety panels and the States which have not complied with it. I feel that, this is not such a simple matter which could be left to the States and State-level safety panels because most of the major dams, big dams, irrespective of the number of dams in a particular State, are there because of Central projects and a great threat is posed to major dams including the Pong Dam and the Pandoh Dam in Himachal Pradesh because of siltation. the Water Resources Ministry cannot solve the problem by merely giving a directive to the States to set up the panel to take care of this problem. What is required in such a situation is, that, a comprehensive safety review should be done and a co-ordinated approach should be there comprising of all the related Ministries, that is, Energy, Environment and Water Resources. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would consider setting up a committee comprising experts from these three Ministries to consider measures for protecting the dams, particularly the big dams related to hydel projects, and also whether an advance study would be made regarding the viability and safety of dams which will be constructed in future.

SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA: It is a good suggestion by the hon. Member. We will look into it.

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Sir, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in his interview to 'The Illustrated Weekly of India' in the month of August this year, had very categorically stated that he was against the construction of big dams.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Who?

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh who was not the Prime Minister then. Now, as Prime Minister, does he stick to this statement and is the Government aware of it and is the Government thinking that big dams are not good for the country?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** But this is about safety.

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** He made the statement outside the House. It was not in the House. (Interruptions).

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** So what? He said it publicly that he was against the construction of big dams. Does he stick to that? (Interruptions).

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** Sir, I submit that the question is irrelevant. (Interruptions).

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Does he mean to say he can speak any trash outside the Government? (Interruptions) I seek your protection, Sir. (Interruptions).

**SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:** Today Mr. George Fernandes calls a meeting.... (Interruptions).

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Does Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh stick to that statement? How can he say that it was made outside the House? (Interruptions).

**SHRI P. N. SUKUL:** Sir, whether it was made outside the House or inside the House, the person is the same... (Interruptions)... He talks something different outside and something else inside the House... (Interruptions).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Policy matters do not form part of supplementaries... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** It is not a policy matter, Sir... (Interruptions)... It is not a policy matter... (Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** This is a policy matter... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** How is it a policy matter, Sir? ... (Interruptions) ... It was the firm belief of Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Now, as Prime Minister of the Janata Dal Government, does he stick to that or not?... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** Sir, on a point of order... (Interruptions)... Sir, he has always the right to elicit information on what the Government's policy is. Therefore, the Minister can say whether the policy continues or not... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** That is a different matter... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** Sir, the honourable Member can give a separate notice for that question... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Why? This question is also about the dams... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI MANOBHAI KOTADIA:** The scope of this question is very limited... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** This is a question about big dams and I have a right to ask this question... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI JAGESH DESAI:** Sir, this is a question on information... (Interruptions)...

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** Sir, I am sticking to the question and I have

a right to ask the Minister and the Government about the stand of the Government on big dams... (Interruptions)

श्री मनुभाई कोटाड़िया : मैंने पहले ही कह दिया कि इसके लिए अलग से क्वेश्चन पूछ सकते हैं ।

(व्यवधान)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: He is a Minister and he does not know the policy of the Government... (Interruptions)... Why should we put a separate question? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: This Government does not have a policy... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: We are asking a question on policy and there is no answer... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly direct ... (Interruptions)... your question to Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Why? The Minister is here and he is concerned with this... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sir, this is a question about big dams and he is the concerned Minister... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: It is the duty of the Minister to understand what the question is... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put another question... (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, may I inject some clarity into the situation?... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, is he on a point of order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no... (Interruptions)... There is all clarity.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Sir, this question relates to big dams and all that has been asked by the honourable Member is a clarification from the honourable Minister to clarify the Government's policy as to whether this Government is in favour of big dams or is against it... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: No. That was not the question. He brought in Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh. So, that was not the question... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How can you say that?... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am talking to the Chairman. That was not the question... (Interruptions)...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is a related question, Sir... (Interruptions)... It is a related question and it is within the purview of the main question. We want to know the Government's policy, the future policy of this Government... (Interruptions)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, आप मुझे भी मौका दीजिए । अगर यह सवाल होता कि बड़े बांधों के बारे में सरकार की नीति क्या है तो जवाब दिया जाना चाहिए था और दिया जाता था ।

श्री रऊफ वलीउल्लाह : मैं नीति की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ । (व्यवधान)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह को बीच में क्यों लाये ? (व्यवधान) पालिसी की बात करते... (व्यवधान)

श्री रऊफ वलीउल्लाह : मैं पालिसी की बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Hear me. According to me, the question is about the safety review. And according to that, this particular question about what the Prime Minister said does not arise out of this. (Interruptions) You are entitled to a supplementary. (Interruptions) I rule it out. Shri T. R. Balu.

**SHRI T. R. BALU:** As stated by the hon. Minister, the safety reviews have been conducted in 91 dams as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. But the review findings have not been provided for the same. Sir, will the Minister come forward to provide the findings, anything adverse, and the follow-up action taken by the Government? Secondly, will the Central Government come forward to finance as far as the safety schemes are concerned?

**SHRI MANOBHAI SOTADIA:** Sir, the ownership of dams is of State Governments. So any amount to be incurred is to be by the State Governments.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Next question.

**Internal and external value of rupee**

\*62. **SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:**†  
**SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of decline in rupee value, both external and internal, at the end of 1988-89 as compared to the rupee value at the end of 1987-88;

(b) by what percentage the import costs have gone up against the major international currencies with the decline in the rupee value and what is the consequential rise in the rate of inflation;

(c) whether ASSOCHAM had some time back made certain suggestions to arrest the declining trend in the internal and external value of Indian rupee; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the decision if any, taken by Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):** (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) External value of the Rupee declined by 10.5 per cent in March 1989 over March 1988 and by 13.4 per cent in March 1988 over March 1987 in terms of the intervention currency, the Pound

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ish Lutt Yadav.

Sterling. Internal value of one Rupee, measured as reciprocal of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base 1982-100), amounted to 60.2 paise in March 1989 and 65.4 Paise in March 1988.

(b) The Rupee depreciated in March 1989 by 16.3 per cent in terms of US dollars, 14.2 per cent in terms of Yen and 6.8 per cent in terms of Deutsche Mark in comparison to March 1988. Other things remaining equal, rupee value of imports denominated in foreign currencies rise by the amount of depreciation of the Rupee vis-a-vis the foreign currency concerned. It is, however, not possible to precisely measure the impact of depreciation of the rupee on domestic inflation.

(c) and (d) In their paper on internal and external value of rupee the ASSOCHAM has suggested to stem the tide of inflation and contain downward slide in the value of the rupee by cutting down wasteful expenditure, curtailing budget deficits, increasing production and productivity, increasing our competitive position and marketing skills.

**श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** माननीय सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के पैराग्राफ "क" में यह कहा है कि अन्तःक्षेप मुद्रा, पाउंड स्टर्लिंग की तुलना में रुपये की बाह्य कीमत में मार्च, 1988 की तुलना में मार्च, 1989 में 10.5 प्रतिशत और मार्च, 1987 की तुलना में मार्च, 1988 में 13.4 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई है। एसोसिएट चेम्बर आफ कामर्स एण्ड इंडस्ट्री आफ इंडिया स्टेडी ने भी कहा है कि भारतीय मुद्रा के 1987-88 के मुकाबले 1988-89 में इसकी बाह्य कीमतों में 7 प्रतिशत के बजाय 8 प्रतिशत और अन्तरिक मूल्यों में 9 प्रतिशत के बजाय 10 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है और यह निर्विवाद सत्य है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारतीय मुद्रा का अवमूल्यन हुआ है और क्या निरन्तर अवमूल्यन हुआ है? आज एक रुपए में जीवनोपयोगी जो सामान मिल रहा है, वह 1950-51 में 10 पैसे में मिलता था और 1970-71 में 23 पैसे में मिलता था। इसलिए निरन्तर अवमूल्यन हुआ है। जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुएं महंगी हुई हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से