

the State Maritime Board (SMB). This consent is issued in consultation with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Custom authorities. Any toxic material, if found embedded in a ship, is fully decontaminated by experts before taking that ship for breaking and disposed of in an environmentally safe manner through Treatment and Safe Disposal Facilities set up for this purpose.

- (c) Does not arise.

Pan-India Aquifer Mapping

788. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government did not undertake Pan-India Aquifer Mapping;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government would come forward to undertake Aquifer Mapping on all India basis; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (d) No, Sir, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has taken up a programme on Aquifer Mapping and Management. Out of 23.25 lakh sq. km of mapable area of the Country, 8.89 lakh sq.km of water stressed area, covering parts of all States/UTs, has been prioritized under the programme during XII Plan. An area of 14.36 lakh sq. km is to be targeted during XIII Plan. The aim of the Aquifer Mapping is to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization along with quantification and for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans.

National dam safety authority

789. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism existing with Government for surveillance, inspection and operation of all dams to ensure their safe functioning;
- (b) whether Government acknowledge the need for a National Dam Safety Authority to oversee the safety of dams in the country;
- (c) if so, by when it would be established;

- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether many States still do not have a dam safety organization;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government to introduce a comprehensive Dam Safety Bill in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) The operation and maintenance of dams comes under the purview of State Governments/Public Sector Units/Project Authorities who own the dams. Dam owners generally carry out pre-monsoon and post-monsoon inspections of their dams as per the standard Pro-forma or checklist issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC). They conduct comprehensive dam safety reviews of distressed dams.

Central Water Commission (CWC) provides a guiding and advisory role in matters concerning dam safety. Several guidelines have been prepared by CWC in this regard which have been circulated to the states for appropriate action. Government of India has also constituted National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS), which is helping in assimilating the experiences and guiding the dam safety activities in the country.

(b), (c), (d) and (g) The Dam Safety Bill, 2010 was introduced in the Parliament on 30th August, 2010. The Bill had a provision for the establishment of Central Dam Safety Organization to oversee the safety of dams in the country. Parliamentary Standing Committee during examination of the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 has also recommended for constitution of an independent regulatory authority to keep an overview of the implementation of the dam safety measures as contemplated in the Dam safety Bill, 2010. The recommendation of the Standing Committee was incorporated in the modified draft of the Bill. However, the Dam Safety Bill, 2010 lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. Further action has been taken up as required under Article 252 of the Constitution.

(e) and (f) As per information available in Central Water Commission, 9 States/UTs - namely Andaman & Nicobar Island, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Haryana, Manipur, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, having very few number of large dams, do not have the Dam Safety Organisation. The matter regarding constitution of Dam Safety Organizations has been regularly stressed by the CWC during the meetings of National Committee on Dam Safety and through correspondence.