

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 894
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022

SAFETY OF HIRAKUD DAM IN ODISHA

894 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether dams located within the Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh are being operated adhering to any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); and
- (b) whether the State of Chhattisgarh has kept any provision in their reservoirs to absorb flood water temporarily in Mahanadi basin for safety of Hirakud dam in Odisha?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Operation and maintenance of dams are carried out by dam owners who are generally State Governments, Central and State power generating PSUs, Municipalities and private companies etc. All the dam owners are required to have operation & maintenance (O&M) manual containing standard operating procedure for their dams/reservoirs in place before commissioning of the dam. CWC has issued guidelines for preparation of O&M manual i.e. "Guideline for Preparing Operation and Maintenance Manual for Dams" in January 2018. As per the Dam Safety Act 2021 which came in force w.e.f. 30.12.2021, every owner of the specified dam shall ensure that a well documented operation and maintenance manual is kept at each of the specified dams and are followed at all times.

Dam Safety Act 2021 also provides that every owner of the dam shall make available the information relating to maximum anticipated inflows and outflows including flood warning and an adverse impact of the same, if any, on persons and property towards the upstream or downstream of the dam, to the concerned district authorities and also make available the information in public domain. Dam owners shall also have to prepare the emergency action plan of each of their dams which includes inter alia (i) the type of emergencies which are likely to occur in the operation of any reservoir; (ii) identification of the likely catastrophic flood in the event of any dam failure, along with probable areas, population, structures and installations likely to be adversely affected due to flood water released from the reservoir; (iii) warning procedures, inundation maps and advance preparations for handling efficiently the likely adverse situations especially to avoid loss of human life.