

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 603
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022
RESERVOIR SEDIMENTATION

603 DR. PRASHANTA NANDA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the problem of sedimentation has been reducing storage capacity of all major reservoirs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of major reservoirs which are affected by the sedimentation, reservoirwise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Hirakud, Rengali, Machkund and other reservoirs in the State of Odisha are affected by such problem; and
- (d) if so, steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The sedimentation in a dam reservoir is a natural phenomenon and it reduces the storage capacity of the reservoirs, although the rate at which this happens varies widely.

(b) Central Water Commission (CWC) has prepared Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs, in 2020 on the basis of data/studies of 369 reservoirs. The compendium is available on CWC website at <http://cwc.gov.in/other-publications-cwc>. The reservoirs which have lost more than 25% of their gross storage have been listed in Appendix-VI of the compendium.

(c) As informed by Government of Odisha, storage capacity of Hirakud, Rengali, Machkund and other reservoirs of Odisha have been reduced due to sedimentation and the magnitude of the reduction in capacity varies from reservoir to reservoir.

(d) In the externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), Phase-II & III, 13 projects for rehabilitation of Dams, which also includes Rengali project, has been prepared and proposed by Water Resources Department, Govt. of Odisha.

Further, Water is a state subject, therefore, any action regarding desiltation/rejuvenation etc. are to be taken up by the respective State Govt./Project Authorities. Moreover, in order to alleviate the problem of siltation of our reservoirs and water bodies, holistic approach with multi pronged strategies need to be taken in catchment watersheds, by involving all related land & water resources departments and agencies. This will not only reduce the loss of precious top soil layer but will also reduce the siltation of the water bodies in general, including our reservoirs. Recently, after an extended consultative process, the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti has come out with a "National Framework for Silt Management", which will be a guiding document covering all aspects for effective silt management of our water bodies and reservoirs in particular.
