

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45

ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

COMPENSATION FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SSD

45#. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the revised backwater levels were decided in violation of the Narmada Tribunal verdict;
- (b) the number of families declared 'out of submergence' in the Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) area in 2023 whose houses and belongings got submerged and had to be given relief;
- (c) by when people in the submerged areas will be given full compensation for their losses; and
- (d) the height at which the water level of Sardar Sarovar would be controlled until all the affected families are completely rehabilitated?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJBHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) No. As per the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT) Award regarding Submergence Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons, "The backwater level at the highest flood level in Sardar Sarovar shall be worked out by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in consultation with Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat" (Sub-clause - ii (3): of Clause-XI)".

Accordingly, CWC carried out the back water studies in August 1984 based on standard step method of back water computation. However, during 78th meeting of Narmada Control Authority (NCA) held on 3rd May 2007, it was decided that the review of back water levels shall be carried out by a Technical Committee comprising of representatives from CWC, NCA and party states. It was considered that backwater computations should consider not only the flows from tributaries but also the effect of flood routing through Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar and Maheshwar reservoirs, the hydraulic discontinuity due to Maheshwar dam and the flood hydrograph.

Accordingly, as per the direction of NCA, a Sub-Committee was constituted and on the basis of its recommendation, CWC carried out the backwater studies for maximum recorded flood of 24 lakh cusecs keeping in view the Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal (NWDT) award stipulation and NCA decision restricting the outflow from Narmada Sagar to 10 lakh cusecs and contribution/ discharge of 14 lakh cusecs from tributaries and catchments directly draining into the Narmada River.

(b) Narmada Valley Development Authority (Madhya Pradesh) has informed that in 2023 no such declaration has been done in Sardar Sarovar Dam area.

(c) Narmada Valley Development Authority (Madhya Pradesh) has informed that at present the people who are in the submergence area, has received full compensation as per their entitlement. Few cases are in litigation, and in those cases the benefits will be given as per the outcome of these litigation and their eligibility/entitlement. Further, NCA has informed that in Maharashtra, no one is residing in the submergence area below the back water level, hence compensation in this case is not applicable.

(d) As per Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement in IA Nos. 42, 43, 50-51& 52-53 in W.P. No. 328 of 2002 dated 8.2.2017, the Sardar Sarovar Reservoir was filled upto Full Reservoir Level (FRL), i.e., 138.68 m.