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04/07/2018

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While dams have played a key role in fostering development in India, a badly maintained, unsafe dam can be hazard. In this context, discuss how far the recent dam Safety Bill, 2018 would help in standardizing and improving dam safety in India and also discuss anomalies if any.

As per the Dam Safety Bill, 2018 it proposes to establish National Dam Safety authority as a regulatory body for dam safety. It shall look after the implementation of policy and guidelines by the state.

The National dam safety authority is also proposed to conduct regular inspection to the dams maintained by state or owners. This ensures the safety procedures are implemented throughout the country.

It also proposes to establish a state dam safety organization which will carry out the procedures for safety in dams owned by it. In case of dams situated in other state and owned by it will be maintained by National Dam Safety Authority.

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As mentioned above NDSA is
constructed as SDSO if the dam is situated
in different state. This provision is
seen as an encroachment of Federal
power of the state.

The NDSA provides guidelines and
makes regular inspections only. In this
regard it may be proposed to provide
certain assistance to the SDSO such as
conducting training for the Engineer
in the best practices available for Dam
Safety measures.

In order to overcome the difference
of opinion between the Centre and
state a forum may be created to
receive suggestions from the states before
passing the legislation.

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