

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/22 The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière
(Mr Bhagwan)

To ask the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities –

Whether, in regard to the Bagatelle Dam, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the present status thereof, indicating (a) if all the tests for the post-construction phase have been carried out (b) the quantity of water collected/stored as at to date, indicating if same is being used and, if so, indicate the purpose therefor and quantity thereof, and if same is tested prior thereto and (c) the status of the construction of the Water Treatment Plant thereat, indicating the cost thereof, name of contractor and expected date of commissioning thereof?

REPLY (TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019)

Madam Speaker,

It is the Water Resources Unit of my Ministry which is responsible for the Bagatelle dam project while the Central Water Authority is responsible only for the Bagatelle Treatment Plant.

The construction of the Bagatelle dam started in December 2011 and was scheduled to be completed in December 2014. In 2013, however, the completion date was extended to June 2017.

The impounding of the dam started in December 2016, works were completed in June 2017 and my Ministry took over the dam on 30 June 2017.

With regard to part (a), before the taking over, tests were carried out under the supervision of the Consultant Artelia on all the hydro mechanical equipment and valves as follows –

- (i) before impounding, dry tests were carried out in November 2016;
- (ii) in June 2017, when the dam was full, wet tests were carried out and the contractor was requested to replace one faulty gearbox; and
- (iii) in June 2018, at the end of the Defects Notification period, after the gearbox was replaced, another test was carried out to test the equipment.

In addition, the Consultant collected and analysed all data from the dam as from December 2016 and confirmed that the behaviour of the dam was satisfactory before issuing the taking over certificate.

On 27 March 2018, my Ministry has appointed a specialised firm, Manser Saxon for the maintenance of the hydro mechanical equipment.

My information, therefore, is that all the tests for the post-construction phase have been carried out.

With regard to part (b), as at date, the level of water stored at the dam is around 85%.

The water is being used as follows –

- (i) during dry season, a volume of 40,000 m³ is released daily into River Terre Rouge. River Terre Rouge converges into the Grand River North West and the water goes down to the Municipal Dyke and is treated at Pailles Water treatment Plant;
- (ii) about 5,000 m³ from the dam is being released daily through Trianon pumping station to Rose Hill Service reservoir to

supply the regions of Rose Hill/ Beau Bassin. The water is chlorinated and filtered by using a mobile filtration plant.

As per established protocols with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Environment, the water quality is tested by the CWA Laboratory on samples collected fortnightly to ensure compliance with WHO standards.

With regard to part (c), I have explained previously in this House that the bidding process for the construction of the treatment plant started in 2013 and on 14 April 2014, the Central Procurement Board approved the award of the contract to Joint Venture *Henan Water & Power Engineering Consulting (HWPC) /First Bureau/HUPD* for the sum of Rs 1,024,194,437, inclusive of VAT.

Unfortunately, the award of the contract was significantly delayed due to a challenge at the Independent Review Panel and an application for judicial review initiated by aggrieved bidders before the Supreme Court. On 10 November 2016, after the Supreme Court set aside the application, the Central Water Authority awarded the contract to the selected bidder.

Works are ongoing and the plant is expected to be commissioned in June 2019.