

'Bridge tech requires revamping'

HT Live Correspondent

A SENIOR professor at the California University in USA AK Chopra said here on Tuesday the damage to Koyan dam in Pune during the 1967 earthquake has proved a milestone in the study of new techniques for building earthquake resistant dams all over the world.

Talking to newsmen, AK Chopra said the new dam construction technology developed during the past fifty years could not benefit the country till date.

"We have in fact took lessons from the severe damages took place in the Koyan dam in Pune some 42 years ago and developed a new technique popular as "Modern Dynamic Analysis and Methodology" for building robust dams which might get minimal effect of the earthquakes," he said.

He, however, admitted that there could be no foolproof technology for keeping the dams absolutely safe against the effects of earthquakes but the application of the advanced construction tech-

nology could help in minimising the damages to the dams and loss to life due to destruction at the dams.

Professor Chopra was here to deliver his expert lectures on the four days short course on "Seismic Design of Concrete Gravity Dams" at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-K). The short course was organised by the Department of Civil Engineering of the IIT-K.

Professor Chopra said that he has not undertaken any study of the Indian dams but he felt that since these dams were constructed long back when the construction technology was not as developed as it was now. Hence in the interest of the people efforts should be made to re-evaluate these dams and get them modified. The old dams could be modified and could be made safer, he said.

Karry K Nuss from US Bureau of Reclamation spoke about the geological and seismological investigations for concrete dams. Dr SK Jain of IIT-K also addressed the participants on the occasion.