

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *62

ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

WATER-STRESSED AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA

*62. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) list of water-stressed areas in Maharashtra and the reasons for the crisis, district-wise ;
- (b) the details of the initiatives taken by Government to deal with the water crisis in the districts of Maharashtra; and
- (c) whether Government has initiated any water conservation projects like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and construction of small dams, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

- (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *62 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “WATER STRESSED AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA”

(a) Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per the Ground Water resource assessment 2023, in the State of Maharashtra, 57 blocks are Semi critical, 9 blocks are Critical and 9 blocks are over-exploited. The reason for water stress area, on the supply side is less & erratic rainfall and on the demand side due to excessive cultivation of high water intensity crops like Sugarcane, Banana, Grapes and Oranges. District-wise over-exploited, Critical, Semi critical (OCS) Block details of Maharashtra are placed as **Annexure-I**.

(b) ‘Water’ being a State subject, during water crisis situation, the states are required to start relief and rehabilitation measures in all those areas which are badly affected. The Relief & Rehabilitation Department of the Government of Maharashtra has introduced several initiatives such as waiver of land revenue, restructuring of Crop loan, adjournment of recovery on current bills of agriculture pumps, provision of water tankers for water supply wherever necessary, non-disconnection of power supply to agriculture pumps of farmers in villages in which scarcity has been declared.

(c) ‘Water’ being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) since 2019 on an annual basis. In the current year, Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) 2024, 5th in the series of JSAs, in all the districts (rural as well as urban) of the country, including Maharashtra. The focused interventions of the campaign include (1) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (2) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it (3) setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation. The details of work completed in Maharashtra under JSA: CTR from the year 2021 to 2024 are placed as **Annexure-II**.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km including the entire mappable area i.e., 259914 km² in the state of Maharashtra. This will help the State Government in better planning of ground water resources.

The construction of area specific Artificial Recharge Structure was taken up by CGWB for Aquifer Rejuvenation under Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) Scheme in Over Exploited Watersheds in the Osmanabad district during 2018-19. A total 55 Nos. Check dams, 46 nos. Recharge Wells & 20 nos. Piezometers were constructed and handed over to State Government.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, twenty six (26) ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation projects under PMKSY-AIBP of Maharashtra having balance estimated cost of Rs. 21925.75 crore [Central Assistance (CA) component of Rs.3045.87 crore] as on 01.04.2016 have been prioritized in consultation with States.

A Special Package has been taken up for financial assistance by Government of India in July, 2018 for completion of 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major/Medium irrigation projects in drought prone districts in Vidarbha and Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra in phases, up to 2022-23. On 13.07.2023, Ministry of Finance conveyed the extension of Special Package for Maharashtra till March'2025. During 2018-19 to 2023-24, an irrigation potential of 1.47 lakh hectare has been created through Special Package for Maharashtra.

Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL), a Central Sector Scheme in identified water stressed areas of 8203 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under 229 blocks in 80 districts of Seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, **Maharashtra**, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with an aim to arrest decline in ground water level through community led sustainable groundwater management. The scheme is being implemented from 01.04.2020 for a period of 5 years. The scheme is taken up in 43 administrative blocks in 13 districts of Maharashtra.

The Government of Maharashtra has taken various initiatives to alleviate the situation of water stressed regions of the State such as Rain water harvesting through Jal-yukta Shivar Yojana, Rapid Catchment Area Treatment, construction of minor irrigation tanks, small check dams.

Steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for Water conservation, Control and regulation of ground water and to promote rain water harvesting / artificial recharge/ water use efficiency etc. can be seen at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *62 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024 REGARDING “WATER-STRESSED AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA”

District-wise Over exploited, Critical, Semi critical (OCS) Block details of Maharashtra

S.No	Name of District	Semi Critical	Critical	Over Exploited	Total
1	AHMEDNAGAR	5	4	1	10
2	AKOLA	1	0	0	1
3	AMRAVATI	3	1	3	7
4	AURANGABAD	7	0	0	7
5	BULDHANA	7	0	2	9
6	JALGAON	10	0	2	12
7	LATUR	1	0	0	1
8	NAGPUR	1	0	0	1
9	NASHIK	3	3	0	6
10	OSMANABAD	2	0	0	2
11	PUNE	7	1	0	8
12	SANGLI	1	0	0	1
13	SATARA	2	0	0	2
14	SOLAPUR	7	0	1	8
	Total	57	9	9	75

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *62 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024 REGARDING “WATER-STRESSED AREAS IN MAHARASHTRA”

The details of work completed in Maharashtra under JSA: CTR from the year 2021 to 2024

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain					
Intervention-Wise Status Report-Maharashtra					
(Status From 22.03.2021 to 23.07.2024)					
(Fig. showing no. of works completed)					
S.No.	Years	Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting	Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	Reuse and Recharge Structures	Watershed Development
1.	2024	1,742	526	4,879	1,927
1.	2023	11,381	3,469	26,155	6,400
2.	2022	15,425	4,624	27,905	8,291
3.	2021	4,187	1,197	7,788	6,543
Sub Total		32,735	9,816	66,727	23,161
Total		1,32,439			
