

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1513

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

WATER CRISIS IN VARIOUS STATES

1513. SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to address the severe water crisis in various States particularly in Nashik, Pune and surrounding areas, given that the reservoir levels have fallen drastically to only 33 per cent of capacity; if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by Government; and
- (b) whether any strategy has been formulated to reduce the water leakage rate in Maharashtra, which is currently estimated at 35 per cent, to ensure equitable distribution of water among residents, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) As 'Water' is a State subject, the steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement their efforts Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programs.

As informed by the State Government of Maharashtra, a Policy of equitable water distribution as per provisions in the "Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005" has been adopted by the State Government. The water use planning up to 15th July of next year is done on the basis of water available in dams on 15th of October of the current year. As per State Water Policy, drinking water is given the top most priority and that is followed by irrigation and industrial use.

As far as, Nasik and Pune region of Maharashtra State are concerned, the water storage in water bodies & reservoirs are respectively 84.67% and 88.17% of their full capacities. Therefore, there is no such case as stated in the question for this year.

Water loss due to leakage and percolation into the ground from distribution network is observed, as majority of the canals are unlined. The State Government has taken a policy decision to distribute for new project water through Pipe distribution network (where ever feasible) in lieu of open canal system to minimize leakage. The State Government undertakes repairs of project components under various heads and accounts to ensure minimum leakages in the projects. Further, the State Government has instituted water audit mechanism to ensure efficient use of available water resources.

Important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Ministries for water conservation, control and regulation of ground water and to promote rainwater harvesting/artificial recharge/water use efficiency etc. can be seen at the URL:

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