

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1213

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

STATUS OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN DROUGHT-PRONE AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

1213. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI

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

- (a) the current status of major irrigation projects in drought-prone districts of Maharashtra;
- (b) the total funds allocated and utilized for irrigation projects during the last five years;
- (c) whether there are any specific plans to promote water conservation and sustainable irrigation methods in these regions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Water, being State subject, water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priority. In order to supplement their efforts, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources under various ongoing schemes.

14 major and medium projects benefitting drought prone areas of Maharashtra has been included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY). Out of these, AIBP component of 09 projects are reported to be completed with creation of 207.37 thousand hectare of irrigation potential. 137.96 thousand hectare cultivable command area have also been developed. Central assistance of Rs 1325.65 crore has been provided to these projects during last five years i.e. 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Further, 8 major / medium irrigation (MMI) projects have been included under special package to Maharashtra. 2 MMI projects have been reported as complete. 1.19 lakh hectare irrigation potential has been created through MMI projects till December, 2024. Central assistance of Rs. 1883.25 Crore has been provided to MMI projects during last five years i.e. 2019-20 to 2023-24.

(c) & (d) Besides major and medium irrigation projects, 83 surface minor irrigation projects of Vidarbha and Marathwada region have also been included under special package to Maharashtra. 60 projects have been

completed and 47 thousand hectare irrigation potential has been created through these projects. Rs. 625.33 crore has been provided to these projects as central assistance.

Further, micro irrigation and watershed development activities are being promoted for sustainable irrigation. Under Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY being implemented by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, an area of 5.93 Lakh hectare has been covered under micro-irrigation and an amount of Rs. 1586.44 crore has provided as Central Assistance in the last five years to the State of Maharashtra including drought-prone areas. Further, under WDC component of PMKSY, being implemented by Department of Land Resources, an area of 5.26 Lakh hectare has been covered under 140 projects and an amount of Rs. 449.13 crore has provided as Central Assistance in the last five years to the State of Maharashtra including drought-prone areas.

In addition, to address the issue of development of irrigation in water scarce drought prone areas in India, special provisions have been made in criteria for selection of projects and central funding ratio under PMKSY-AIBP. If a project has more than 50% command in drought prone area, 50% advance stage criteria has been relaxed and the project can be included since beginning of the construction with enhance funding ratio of 60 (Centre): 40 (State) in the proportion of command area falling in drought prone area.
