

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 678

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR VIDARBHA AND MARATHWADA

678. DR. FAUZIA KHAN

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

- (a) the details of irrigation projects undertaken under the Special package in the 2024-25 budget to address agrarian distress in Marathwada, including the scope, fund allocation and progress of each individual project;
- (b) the details of measures implemented in the past to address chronic drought situation in Marathwada including the financial and physical progress of these measures;
- (c) whether Government recognizes the high incidence of farmer suicides in Marathwada districts;
- (d) the specific steps taken to address this crisis, including the implementation of watershed management, rainwater harvesting other drought-mitigation initiatives strategies; and
- (e) whether Government is developing any river-linking project to ensure irrigation in Marathwada?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) A Special Package scheme for completion of irrigation projects to address agrarian distress in Vidarbha and Marathwada and other chronically drought prone areas of rest of Maharashtra has also been approved by Government of India in July, 2018. 17 surface minor irrigation projects of Marathwada region have been included under this scheme. 9 projects have been completed and balance 8 projects are ongoing. 6,183 hectare irrigation potential has been developed through these minor irrigation projects till December, 2024.

The details of the projects of Marathwada region of Maharashtra undertaken under Special Package scheme including scope in terms of target irrigation potential, fund allocation in terms of expenditure and central assistance released and progress in terms of irrigation potential created are placed as **Annexure**.

(b) to (d) 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.

Incidences of farmer suicides in Marathwada region has been reported by Government of Maharashtra. Steps taken to address chronic drought situation in Marathwada region are as follows:

1. As reported by Government of Maharashtra, ultimate irrigation potential of Marathwada region is 19.50 lakh hectare, out of which 16.80 lakh hectare irrigation potential has been created through 1,270 completed and ongoing projects.

2. Besides Special package mentioned at point (a), Government of India has also included 4 major and medium projects viz. Lower Dudhna Project, Nandur Madhmeshwar Phase-II Project, Upper Kundalika Project and Upper Penganga Project, benefitting Marathwada region under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY). 1.09 lakh hectare irrigation potential has been created and 52.15 thousand hectare cultivable command area has been developed through these projects till December, 2024. Central assistance of Rs. 1,222.69 crore has been provided to these projects.
3. 3,285 works in 30 clusters amounting to Rs. 183 crore, including natural resource management component for soil and water conservation measures, benefitting Marathwada region has been included under Watershed Development (WD) component of PMKSY.
4. Government of Maharashtra has identified 916 villages in Marathwada for catchment area and drainage line treatment under Jalyukt Shiver Abhiyan 2.0.
5. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry has taken up various artificial recharge projects in Marathwada and Vidarbha region. In this endeavor, aquifer recharge in Osmanabad aspirational district has been undertaken during 2018-20.
6. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme under the scheme Ground Water Management and Regulation. The aquifer mapping for the entire mappable area of the country, including Marathwada region has been completed. The ground water management plans have been prepared and shared with respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures/implementation.
7. 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.
8. Government of Maharashtra has also intimated regarding various measures being implemented under many schemes to support farmers viz. PMKISAN, Late Vasantnao Naik Sheti Swavalamban Mission, Krushi Samruddhi scheme, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Farmer Loan Waiver Scheme, Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, Namu Kisan Mahasamman Nidhi Scheme etc.

(e) National Water Development Agency under this Ministry has prepared pre-feasibility report of three intra-State river interlinking projects benefitting Marathwada region namely Wainganga–Manjra valley link project, Nar–Par–Girna valley link project and Upper Krishna – Bhima link project. Though, first two intra-State river interlinking projects have not been found techno-economically feasible.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 678 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR VIDARBHA AND MARATHWADA.

List of Projects under Special Package scheme in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Project	Target Irrigation Potential (in hectare)	Irrigation Potential created (in hectare)	Estimated Cost (in Rs. crore)	Expenditure incurred (in Rs. crore)	Central assistance released (in Rs. crore)	Districts Benefitted
1.	Titwi	255	0	13.80	6.26	3.13	Aurangabad
2.	Banoti*	265	265	32.66	35.32	6.66	
3.	DevgaonRangari	1012	458	124.78	132.17	17.99	
4.	Wangaon Pohari*	473	473	61.06	50.81	12.30	
5.	Sawaladbara S.T.*	302	302	21.96	7.47	1.83	
6.	Palasakheda	930	360	53.29	463.62	4.32	Jalna
7.	Barbada	1225	0	240.95	26.40	0.00	
8.	Hatwan	1695	0	379.14	16.66	0.00	
9.	Patoda	1095	0	112.27	47.59	2.41	
10.	Sonkheda S.T.	445	0	56.80	50.42	10.53	
11.	Khoradsawangi M.I.	254	154	21.04	12.28	0.17	
12.	Daresarsam S.T.*	258	258	17.12	10.07	8.44	Nanded
13.	Maniramkhed L.M.I.P.*	1200	1200	96.11	46.47	2.38	
14.	Borasuri St. Tank*	310	310	46.90	59.26	10.88	Latur
15.	Vairagad St. Tank*	848	848	45.33	40.67	9.45	
16.	Chondi St. Tank*	765	765	24.56	11.19	2.80	
17.	Satra Potra S,T.*	790	790	36.78	36.04	5.72	Beed

* Projects completed
