

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1697

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

**STEPS TO PREVENT WATER LOSS FROM SILTATION AND EVAPORATION IN
DAMS IN MAHARASHTRA**

1697 #. Dr. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being taken to prevent siltation in Jayakwadi, Majalgaon and other major dams in the Marathwada region of the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether any scientific or technical measures have been adopted to reduce water loss due to evaporation in these dams;
- (c) whether Government is carrying out de-silting or dredging work to enhance the water holding capacity of these dams; and
- (d) if so, the details of the work done, so far and the future action plans thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) The responsibility for operation and maintenance including desiltation activities rests with the respective dam owners, State Governments and Project Authorities.

As informed by the Government of Maharashtra, a reservoir sedimentation survey of the Jayakwadi Dam was carried out by the Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute (MERI), Nashik, in 2014. According to the survey report, the live storage capacity of the Jayakwadi Dam has reduced by 8.24%. Further, the Government of Maharashtra has proposed to undertake the silt survey of the Majalgaon Dam during the financial year 2025–26.

Reservoir sedimentation surveys of the Manjara and Lower Tarna Dams were also conducted by MERI in 2022. As per the survey findings, the live storage capacities of the Manjara and Lower Tarna Dams have reduced by 8.41% and 22%, respectively.

Soil and Water Conservation Department, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, has undertaken initiatives such as continuous contour trenches and small-capacity water storage structures in the upstream catchment of the Jayakwadi Dam, as part of the Catchment Area Treatment Plan.

- (b) As informed by the Government of Maharashtra, no scientific or technical measures have been adopted so far to reduce water loss due to evaporation in the dam.

(c) & (d) The Government of Maharashtra has contemplated the removal of silt and sand from six selected major dams on a pilot basis, and the Jayakwadi Dam is included in this initiative. The Government is currently updating its policy and programme on dam desiltation. Based on the experience gained from these six pilot projects, the de-silting or dredging work programme will be extended to other projects in a phased manner.
