

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 98

ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

LENDI MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECT AND BABHALI DAM

98. # DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any action in coordination with the State Governments of Maharashtra and Telangana to resolve the issues related to the Lendi Major Irrigation Project and Babhali Dam to enhance water resources in Marathwada region of Maharashtra;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plans in collaboration with Government of Maharashtra to improve the water storage capacity of the Lendi Major Irrigation Project and Babhali Dam to enhance water resources in the Marathwada region; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any action in coordination with Government of Maharashtra to strengthen the irrigation system in Nanded district of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) An interstate agreement was concluded in 2003 between the States of Maharashtra and Telangana (erstwhile Andhra Pradesh), under which the Lendi Project was taken up as a joint venture of both Governments. To ensure overall supervision and effective control over planning and construction, an Interstate Board for Joint Irrigation Projects between Maharashtra and Telangana has been constituted.

With regard to the Babhali Barrage, the Government of Maharashtra has informed that, in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the barrage gates remain lifted during the monsoon period i.e. 15th July to 28th October. Due to limited non-monsoon flows, Maharashtra has been unable to store water in the barrage. Furthermore, as mandated, Maharashtra is required to release 0.6 TMC of water to Telangana on 1st March each year. Further, regulation of the Babhali Barrage is overseen by a Supervisory Committee comprising officials from the Central Water Commission, the Government of Maharashtra, and the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

As regards the Lendi Project, the Government of Maharashtra has informed that the entire quantum of water available at the project site has already been allocated for utilization. Consequently, the question of further enhancement of water resources at this site does not arise.

(c) In 2018, the Government of India approved a Special Package for Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra aimed at expediting the completion of 83 Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) projects and 8 Major/Medium Irrigation projects across drought-prone districts of Vidarbha, Marathwada, and other regions of the State.

Under this initiative, two Surface Minor Irrigation projects namely Daresarsam and Maniramkhed have been completed, providing direct benefits to the Nanded district of Maharashtra.

In addition, the Upper Penganga Major Irrigation Project, benefitting the districts of Yavatmal, Hingoli, and Nanded has been completed under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP), thereby augmenting irrigation potential and supporting agricultural development in these regions.
