

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 880

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

SONTHI LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

880 Shri GOLLA BABURAO:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Technical Advisory Council of Central Water Commission has given permission for Sonthi lift irrigation project in Karnataka on 25th March, 2026;
- (b) the reasons that Government is allowing Karnataka to use additional water, more than allocated 15 TMC, from Bima river which greatly impact the downstream Andhra Pradesh and its farmers;
- (c) whether final DPR for Sonthi project has been submitted to CWC;
- (d) if so, justification given in approving the DPR;
- (e) whether opinion of Andhra Pradesh has been taken for this project since it is inter-State project; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) The Sonthi Lift Irrigation Scheme was examined by the Central Water Commission (CWC) from the inter-state perspective, within an overall ceiling of 15 TMC of water from the main stream of the river Bhima. Thereafter, the Advisory Committee of the MoWR, RD&GR appraised the scheme in its 125th meeting held on 25.05.2015. The finalized cost of the scheme was Rs. 673.90 crore at the 2013-14 Price Level. The Advisory Committee of the DoWR, RD&GR has now appraised the 1st Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of the scheme amounting to Rs. 942.39 crore at the 2024-25 Price Level in its 160th meeting held on 20.03.2026.

(e) & (f) The DPR of a project is circulated to the co-basin States when the proposed project is located in a river basin for which no tribunal award or inter-state agreement exists. Since the Sonthi Lift Irrigation Scheme is in the Bhima sub-basin which forms part of Krishna basin, for which Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal Award already exists and therefore, consultation with other co-basin States is not necessary.
