

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 894

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

INITIATIVE UNDER MAHA FOR WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND CENSUS TRACKING

894 Dr. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

Shri RAJESH PARMANAND SHUKLA:

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

- (a) the specific research parameters and evaluation rubrics utilised under the newly launched Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) initiative to fund high-impact water conservation startups;
- (b) whether Government has completed the structural integration of data derived from the first national water census report into central policy planning frameworks;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the progress of developing low-cost filtration systems by the 19 awarded winners of the recent national Jal Shakti Hackathon; and
- (e) details of the implementation timelines for establishing the proposed localised cloud-based groundwater data monitoring centers across water-stressed districts?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water program was launched on 01.06.2026. It is a joint initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti to support mission-oriented, solution-based research to address key water challenges. The five thematic areas of MAHA Water Programme are - Water Resource Assessment and Sustainable Management, Drinking water, Water Quality, Human and Ecological Health, Water Use Efficiency & Circular Economy and Climate Resilience & Adaptation.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Jal Shakti implements the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - “Irrigation Census”, with 100% Central Assistance to States/UTs. Under this scheme, the 1st census of Water Bodies with reference year 2017-18 was completed and the All India and State-wise reports of the census were published in April, 2023 and the reports are available on the website of Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. (<https://mowr.nic.in/irrigationcensus/sites/default/files/2023040672.pdf>)

(d) Bharat WIN Portal is operationalized to accelerate development and deployment of innovative water technologies and 19 winners of Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025 have been incentivised. The list of winners of Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025 is at **Annexure**.

(e) ‘Water’ being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources including its conservation are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. The Central Government supplements the measures and efforts being taken up by the State Governments.

Regional Office Data Centres function at the Regional Offices of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), and a National Data Centre is operational at the Central Headquarters for the storage and analysis of groundwater-monitoring data through cloud-based platforms.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 894 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 27.07.2026 REGARDING “INITIATIVE UNDER MAHA FOR WATER-USE EFFICIENCY AND CENSUS TRACKING”.

Details of 19 ideas of Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025

Sl. No	Title of Proposal	Name of Winner
1.	Rapid and Scalable Water Quality Surveillance Using an Indigenous eDNA Monitoring System	Priyank Pandey
2.	Indigenous Low-Cost Bentonite-Based Multichannel Ceramic Tubular Membranes for Decentralized Sewage Wastewater Treatment	Vinoth Kumar Raja
3.	Development of an Adsorbent-Based Technique for Removal of Microplastics from Water	Mohini Singh
4.	SPONGE: A Planning-Scale Decision Support Engine for Nature-Based Urban Stormwater Management for Flood Mitigation	Rohith
5.	Development of a Prototype Floating Sensor-Based System for Automated Water Depth and Discharge Velocity Measurement with IoT and AI/ML Integration	Sachin Karpe
6.	Next-Generation Decentralized Domestic Wastewater Treatment: An Anammox-Moving Bed Biological Reactor for efficient Organic and Nitrogen Removal	Manaswini Behera
7.	Development of Low-Energy Blackwater Treatment System via DHS integration with Modified Anaerobic Baffled reactor.	Absar Kazmi
8.	Hydro-Harvest AI: An Automated, Geospatial Design Suite for Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting	Shiva Kumar Indauri
9.	A Solar-RF Wireless Power Transfer System for Sustainable Groundwater Monitoring in Managed Aquifer Recharge Sites	Gopal Krishan
10.	Jal-Rakshak: A Biomimetic, Zero-Waste Sanitation Ecosystem	Ajit S Gokhale
11.	"Watt-Water": Non-Intrusive Virtual Flow Metering & Efficiency Audit System via Motor Current Signature Analysis (MCSA)	Payal Vyankat Dahiwalé
12.	Jal-Prahari: Solar-Hybrid ASV with Active Dipping Mechanism for Precision River Profiling	Vishal Shivaji Patil
13.	FLUID FUSION- Autonomous Floating Sensor System for River Water Quality and Water Level Monitoring with Wireless Data Transmission	Vinod Kumar
14.	Low-Energy Modified Biological Activated Carbon (BAC) Systems with Controlled Aerobic–Anoxic Zonation for Decentralized Tertiary Treatment of Wastewater: Simultaneous Removal of Nitrogen, Residual Organics, and Emerging Contaminants	Bhanu Prakash Vellanki
15.	Drain-Cover–Mounted Swarm IoT System for Early Urban Flood and Drainage Failure Detection	Parvinder Singh Gandhi
16.	Assessment of Cascading Water Use Potential through Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS)	Peyyala Harathi
17.	Non-Invasive Water Audit & Analytics Platform	Shaik Althaf
18.	Valorisation of Sewage Sludge and Agricultural Residues into FCO Compliant Soil Conditioners and Slow-Release Fertilisers for Sustainable Agriculture	Rajesh Roshan Dash
19.	Flow-Through M-CAT Systems for NextGen Water Security Through the Fullest Water and Wastewater Treatment	Ambika S
