GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 91

ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

MARATHWADA WATER SCARCITY AND MITIGATION

91. Shri ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government has conducted a district-wise hydrological evaluation of Marathwada and Central India to address the severe groundwater depletion aggravated by the ongoing Super El Niño weather anomaly;

(b) the current implementation status and financial allocations earmarked for Maharashtra under the Atal Bhujal Yojana and National Hydrology Project to build climate-resilient microirrigation structures in drought-prone blocks; and

(c) whether Government is planning to sanction a specialized Industrial and Rural Water Grid for the drought-susceptible Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) and Jalna districts to secure long-term water sustainability for both expanding industrial nodes like Bidkin (AURIC) and local rural populations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) To assess changes in groundwater recharge, extraction, availability and the Stage of Ground Water Extraction, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in coordination with the State Governments carries out periodic Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment across the country including the States of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment, 2025, the total Annual Ground Water Recharge in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh has been assessed at 33.89 BCM, 14.30 BCM and 36.07 BCM respectively. The corresponding Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources have been estimated at 31.99 BCM, 13.07 BCM and 34.15 BCM respectively, while the Annual Ground Water Extraction has been assessed at 16.57 BCM, 6.30 BCM and 20.26 BCM respectively. Accordingly, the Stage of Ground Water Extraction has been assessed at 51.79% in Maharashtra, 48.18% in Chhattisgarh and 59.32% in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Atal Bhujal Yojana was implemented in Maharashtra from FY 2020-21 to October 2025 across 1,442 villages in 1,133 Gram Panchayats, with an approved outlay of Rs. 965.15 crore. The scheme has been

concluded on 15.10.2025. The scheme covered 43 water-stressed blocks in 13 districts of the State. Periodic assessments carried out during 2023-2025 indicate improvement in groundwater levels in 39 out of the 43 covered blocks.

National Hydrology Project (NHP) was implemented during 2016-2024 and was subsequently extended up to September 2025. The project has since been physically and financially closed. In Maharashtra, all approved project activities were successfully completed including procurement and installation of 351 Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) with telemetry, establishment of the State Data Centre and development of the Decision Support System (DSS). The approved Project Implementation Plan (PIP) cost was Rs. 27.00 crore.

(c) Water being a State subject, water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments in accordance with their priorities and available resources. To supplement the efforts of the State Governments, the Government of India provides technical and financial assistance under various ongoing schemes such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, Mission Amrit Sarovar, various components of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM), etc. for sustainable development and efficient management of water resources, including reducing dependence on groundwater and improving its long-term sustainability.

Further, as intimated by the Government of Maharashtra, the State Government has taken up the Marathwada Water Grid Project to address the drought situation in the Marathwada region. The project envisages interlinking 11 major dams in the region through a pipeline network to facilitate transfer of water from one reservoir to another, as and when required.

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