

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 97

ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE UPPER BHADRA PROJECT, KARNATAKA

97. Shri AJAY MAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government announced central assistance of ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka in the Union Budget 2023-24, and the amount released so far, year-wise;
- (b) the present status of according National Project status to the upper Bhadra project, and the reasons for the delay in releasing the committed assistance;
- (c) whether the Central Government is aware that the project is intended to provide irrigation and drinking water to the drought-prone districts of central Karnataka; and
- (d) the timeline by when the balance assistance will be released?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) The Upper Bhadra Project, a major lift irrigation scheme in Karnataka, aims to provide micro-irrigation facilities to about 2.25 lakh hectares in the drought-prone districts of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumakuru and Davangere along with filling up of minor irrigation tanks and augmentation to Vani Vilas Sagar Reservoir.

The Central Government announced central assistance of ₹ 5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra Project in Karnataka in the Union Budget 2023-24. As per the request of the Government of Karnataka in August, 2023, a proposal was taken up by Ministry of Jal Shakti for providing financial assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme scheme (PMKSY-AIBP). As the approved cost was not adequate for completion of the project at the prevailing price level, the revised cost estimate was taken up for appraisal by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in consultation with the Government of Karnataka. The revised cost estimate has since been appraised at Rs. 21,167.93 crore at the 2024-25 price level during the 160th meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation held on 20.03.2026.

Since the project could not be included under PMKSY due to the aforesaid reasons, no central assistance has been provided yet. Further, decision regarding inclusion of the project for central assistance under PMKSY depends on approved guidelines and the financial allocations for PMKSY for the period 2026-31, concurrent with the award period of the 16th Finance Commission.
