

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 695

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

SALINE INTRUSION INTO SOUTH GOA AGRICULTURAL LANDS

695. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to repair, rebuild or upgrade the centuryold water control systems to protect khazan agriculture in light of repeated saline inundation reported by farmers in Marcaim and Neura despite the presence of bundh and saltgate infrastructure;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to commission independent audits of the Water Resources Department (WRD) works and sanction corrective funding to address systemic issues considering that Rs. 9 crore were spent on repairing Neura bundhs but saline ingress continues due to defective sluice gates and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would direct the Goa State Research Board (GSRB) or the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to install real-time water quality sensors and ensure accountability of gate-maintaining committees due to recurring failures in sluice gate management during high tides leading to groundwater contamination in wells and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to support community-led maintenance through grants for khazan tenant associations, fund technical training and link irrigation modernization measures (such as sluice gate automation) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) to enable climate-resilient coastal farming and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Repair, rebuild or upgrading of water control system comes under the purview of concerned State Government. As informed by the State Government of Goa, Soil Conservation Division, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Goa is entrusted to carry out the works of repairs/maintenance and remodeling of notified khazan bunds so as to protect the conservancy of khazan lands of the State. The works on khazan bunds are carried out under Agriculture Tenancy Act 1964 and Rules 1965 in force as per specified patterns of assistance.

The role of Soil Conversation Division is to carry out repairs/strengthening of khazan bund, which is administered by Revenue Department and hand it over to respective Taluk Mamlatdars, which in turn is handed over to tenant association by Taluk Mamlatdars. Once the repaired bund is handed over to the

tenant association, it is joint duty of tenants to maintain it in good condition by taking up periodic maintenance works as and when required, as per the aforesaid Act.

State Government of Goa has further informed that, the bunds at Neura are in good condition whereas bund at Marcaim has been tendered and tender of the same has been referred to Goa State Works Board for consideration.

(c) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) mandate primarily focuses on regulating groundwater abstraction through No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for various projects. While issuing NOCs, CGWA stipulates conditions for groundwater quality monitoring to ensure sustainable practices. It is pertinent to mention that in Goa, the State Ground Water Authority, is the primary regulatory body for groundwater management within the state.

(d) Water, being a state subject; extension, renovation, modernisation and operation and maintenance of water resources projects are under the mandate of concerned State Governments. However, in order to supplement their efforts, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources under various ongoing schemes. No such proposal for central funding has been received in this Department. Inclusion of a project for central funding, however, depends on various statutory clearances, fulfilment of criteria laid down in scheme guidelines, availability of funds, scope of the scheme etc.
