

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3262

ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026

NARMADA CANAL PROJECT IN BARMER-BALOTRA AREA

†3262. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL:

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

- (a) the current status of the works under the second and third phases of the Narmada Canal Project in Barmer–Balotra area and the time by which water connections to the remaining villages to be provided under the said project;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the groundwater in Balotra and adjoining areas is highly saline and contaminated;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to set up a desalination plant to sweeten saline water here and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the funds spent during the last three years to improve the depleting groundwater level in Barmer district under the Atal Bhujal Yojana and the results achieved therefrom?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Narmada Canal Project has been completed with central assistance under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. Government of Rajasthan has informed that total water allocation for the project is 0.5 MAF, in which 22% share has been allocated for drinking purposes.

Public Health Department, Government of Rajasthan has informed that six (06) projects based on Narmada Canal have been sanctioned to cater drinking water demand of 1106 villages of Barmer & Balotra districts. Status of these projects are given at **Annexure**.

(b) & (c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry generates groundwater quality data at a regional scale across the country including Barmer-Balotra areas of Rajasthan state. As per the Annual Ground Water Quality Report – 2025, groundwater quality monitoring in Barmer district indicates localized exceedance of certain parameters beyond the BIS drinking water limits. In respect of Balotra, the analysis indicated Electrical Conductivity (EC) in excess of the BIS prescribed limit for drinking water for the sample collected and analysed, while all other analysed parameters were found within the permissible limits.

Government of Rajasthan has informed that in view of groundwater quality, the State Government has shifted drinking water supply in the affected areas from groundwater sources to surface water-based supply systems under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) such as Pokaran-Falsoond-Balotra-Siwana Water Supply Project, Barmer Lift Water Supply Project (BLWSP), Narmada Canal Based Water Supply Project and OTMP scheme under JJM. Government of Rajasthan has also informed that 102 RO plants have also been installed in different time frames in Balotra district for desalting the saline groundwater.

(d) Atal Bhujal Yojana was a pilot project with fixed duration and outlay, implemented across 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 7 States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Scheme has successfully demonstrated the efficacy of community led participatory ground water management and provided a replicable model which can be taken up for implementation by other States also, with their own budgetary arrangements. An amount of Rs.508.46 crore has been utilized till 08.03.2026 by the State of Rajasthan.

The scheme has not been implemented in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3262 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.03.2026 REGARDING “NARMADA CANAL PROJECT IN BARMER-BALOTRA AREA”

Details of projects based on Narmada Canal sanctioned to cater drinking water demand of 1106 villages of Barmer & Balotra district

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | District (Number of villages) | Status |
|----------------|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Narmada canal based Transmission and Cluster Water Supply Project for Sheo-Ramsar Tehsil | Barmer (217 villages) | Completed |
| 2 | Narmada Canal based JJM 217 villages of Tehsil Sheo & Ramsar under JJM | | Ongoing |
| 3 | Narmada based ‘HR’ Infrac Gudamalani Water Supply Project under NRDWP | Balotra (302 villages) Barmer (149 villages) | Completed |
| 4 | Narmada based Water Supply Project for 451 villages of Sindhari Dhorimanna and Barmer blocks District Barmer (Package CP-02, HR-1, HR-2) under JICA funded Rajasthan Rural Water Supply & Fluorosis Mitigation Project Phase II (CP-02) under JJM | | Ongoing |
| 5 | Narmada based WS project for 163 Village under JICA Package CP03-(CH1) under JJM | Barmer (163 villages) | Work Order |
| 6 | Narmada based WS project for 275 Village under JICA Package CP04-(CH2) under JJM | Barmer (275 villages) | Work Order |
