

## **Regarding implementation of Mhaisal Lift Irrigation Scheme in Maharashtra-laid**

**SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL (SANGLI):** The Mhaisal Lift Irrigation Scheme (MLIS) is a crucial project addressing water scarcity in Maharashtra's drought-prone Sangli and Solapur districts. With an estimated cost of Rs 1,100 crore, the scheme aims to lift water from the Krishna River for agricultural and drinking purposes, potentially transforming the region's agricultural landscape. The MLIS promises to enable farmers to transition from drought-vulnerable crops to more lucrative cash crops and fruit cultivation, significantly boosting the local economy. Additionally, it's expected to provide low-interest financing to the state irrigation department for further water infrastructure development. However, implementation has faced significant delays, particularly affecting the Jat taluka of Sangli district. Farmers here have waited over three decades for the scheme's expansion. Responding to growing concerns, the Maharashtra Government recently sanctioned a Rs 1,900-crore project to expand the MLIS. While tenders were issued in January and a contractor finalized, work commencement remains pending. Many villages still rely on water tankers for basic needs, especially in the rain-shadow areas of Jat tehsil where inadequate rainfall exacerbates water scarcity. The successful implementation of the Mhaisal Lift Irrigation Scheme is crucial not only for boosting agricultural productivity but also for ensuring the overall development and stability of the region.