

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1795

ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

UPPER BHADRA PROJECT

1795. SHRI SHREYAS M PATEL

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the Upper Bhadra Project's irrigation component, worth Rs. 3388 crore, aimed at drought-prone areas in Tarikere and Kadur taluks (Chickmagalur district) in Hassan Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) if so, the details of the project including its cost, timeline and beneficiaries (number of farmers and acres of land);
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure timely completion of the project and to include additional areas in the project; and
- (d) the action taken against officials responsible for any delays?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Yes, Sir. However, water being a State subject, mandate for planning, implementation and funding of irrigation projects lies in the domain of the State Government concerned.

(b) Upper Bhadra project is a lift irrigation scheme being implemented by Government of Karnataka. The project targets to provide irrigation to 5,57,022 acre in drought-prone districts of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumkur and Davangere of Karnataka by micro irrigation. In addition, the project would also augment water in the existing Vani Vilas Sagar reservoir.

Government of Karnataka has, in the year 2020, accorded administrative approval to the re-revised detailed project report of the project, with an estimated cost of Rs. 21,473.67 crore (2018-19 price level). Total number of beneficiaries under the project is estimated to be about 74.26 lakh. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2026.

(c) Work on the project is reported to be in advanced stage. The works for lifting water from Bhadra reservoir to Ajjampura tunnel in two stages, and thereafter conveying water to Chitradurga and Tumkur branch canals, are reported to be completed. Further, work for lifting water from Tunga river to Bhadra reservoir in two stages, is presently under progress. It is also reported by the State Government that water is being released to Vani Vilas Sagar reservoir since 2019-20.

However, it is informed by the State Government that the project work is being carried out as per the approved detailed project report, and as such, no additional area has been considered for irrigation.

(d) Project implementation, including identification of lapses and deciding on penal action against erring Officials, lies entirely in the domain of the State Government. However, Government of Karnataka has informed that the key reasons for delay in the project include slow pace of land acquisition process, higher compensation demand by land owners, and requirement of funds. Hence, the delay is generally not attributed to the laxity of Officials.
