

## WATER RESOURCES POTENTIAL AND DEVELOPMENT IN MARATHWADA REGION

**Dr. S.T. Sangle\*\***

*Former Professor and Head,  
 Department of Economics,  
 Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada  
 University, Aurangabad (M.S.) India.  
 Email ID:sanglest@yahoo.co.in*

**Er. S.A. Nagre\***

*Former Member  
 Marathwada Development Board,  
 Aurangabad (M.S.), India.  
 Email ID:nagre.shankar96@gmail.com*

### Introduction

Maharashtra is the second highest populated, third largest in area and the second most industrialized state in India. The state of Maharashtra came into existence on 1st May 1960. The Geographical location of the Maharashtra is bounded between latitude 16.40 to 22.10 N and longitude 72.60 to 80.90 E. As per 2011 census, the total population of Maharashtra is 112.37 Million, which is 9.29% of the India's population (1210.19 Million). The State has the geographical area of 0.307 Million Sq. Km., which is about 9.4 per cent of the total area of India. The average rainfall of the State is approximately 1360 mm. The maximum rainfall, about 88 per cent occurs in four months between June to September, about 8 per cent between October to December and remaining 4 per cent after December. Further, rainfall is ranging from 400 mm to 6000 mm in different parts of the State. It is revealed from this, that there is significant variation in rainfall distribution and its occurrence. The State witnesses frequent drought conditions. Almost 42.5% area of the State is drought prone.

Water is a prime natural resource, used for multiple uses as domestic, irrigation, industry, power generation, navigation etc. Water is fundamental resource to life, live lihood, food security and sustainable development. Water which was once considered as a bund an tha snow become a scarce & economic resource. Water should be used in judicial and integrated manner to maximize economic and social welfare.

The distribution of water resources is uneven over a large part of the State. Such area is therefore, water deficit whereas a small part is bestowed with abundance in water. The State Water Policy formulated by the Government of Maharashtra in year 2003 envisages that, the water resources of the State shall be planned, developed & managed with a river basin and sub-basin as the unit. This

policy states that, the distress in water availability during deficit period shall be shared equitably amongst different sectors of water use and also among upstream and downstream users.

### ➤ Water Resources in Maharashtra

Total water resource on earth is estimated to be about 1400 million cubic Km, which is 0.25% of the planet's mass and if spread evenly over its surface, it would cover the planet to a height of 2.7 Km. But more than 97% is in the form of oceans and seas, 2% is locked in ice-caps and glaciers and a large portion of remaining 1% lies far too deep in the ground to exploit. Thus only 0.2 million cubic km is fresh water in rivers, lakes, swamps, reservoirs and 23.4 million cubic km is ground water which is mostly saline.

India is second largest populated country in the world, having 16 % of the world's population with just 4% of water resources. The main source of water is annual precipitation including snow fall, has been estimated to be of the order of 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). More than half of that, returns to atmosphere by evaporation and seepage in to the ground. The balance water resource, which occurs as natural run off in the rivers is estimated to 1869 BCM, considering both surface and ground water.

### Surface Water Allocated by the Tribunal

There are different Tribunal Awards, Committee reports or Agreement between the party States regarding water disputes or water sharing of interstate rivers. These awards/ reports/ agreement are binding on the State. The water allotted basin wise to the State by the Tribunal is shown below for six river basins in Maharashtra named Godavari, Tapi, Krishna, Narmada, Mahanadi and West Flowing rivers. The geographical areas, water availability, water available for use as per Tribunal award are given in the Table no. 1.

**Table No. 1**  
**Water Allocated to State of Maharashtra in Different Basins**

Sr. No	Basin	Avail. Water in Mcum	Allocated by	Water Allocated in Mcum (a)/ TMC(b) (By Tribunal/Committee/Agreement)			
				Water Allocation Mcum (TMC)		Total Water with Regeneration	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	5(a)	5(b)	6(a)	6(b)
1	Godavari	38607	GWDT	29023	1024.93	29023	1024.93
2	Krishna	29300	KWDT-I	15854	560	16562	585
			KWDT-II	18855	666	18855	666
3	Tapi	7027	Iyyengar Committee 5420 and Ukai Dam-141.6	5561	196.40* (191.4+5)	5995	211.71
4	WFR (Konkan)	64218	WFRB Master plan	64219	2267.86	64219	2267.86
5	Narmada	308	NWDT	308	10.88	308	10.88
6	Mahanadi	102	-	102	3.60	103	3.64
7	Total	1,39,562	(Excluding KWDT-II)	115067	4063.67	116210	4104.02

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No. 264 & 265

(\*196.40 TMC Water allocation includes 5 TMC from Narmada basin at Ukai Dam as per MOU with Gujarat; Total in row no.7 is excluding KWDT II; WFR – West Flowing Rivers.)

All available water cannot be used altogether because all basins are interstate basins except west flowing rivers (WFR). There are Tribunal constraint son water use of the se interstate basins. The west flowing basins lies in Konkan, where Catchment Area is very less as compared to water available & 90% of water flows to Arabian Sea.

➤ **Ground Water Availability**

Groundwater is one of the most important natural resources on the earth. It plays important role in

maintenance of economy, environment and standard of living of any society in the state. In absence of immediate availability of surface-water sources, a large population depends upon groundwater. It is equally important in a river basin management. I has been the primary source of water supply for domestic, agriculture and in dustrial purposes.

**Table No. 2 Details of Ground Water Available in Maharashtra**

(FigureinCol.No.5to6 in Mcum)

Sr No	Sub basin	No. of Water sheds	Catchment area (sq.km)	Net Recharge	70% of Net GW Recharge	Categorization
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)

1	Godavari	807	152598	17498	12248	Safe
2	Krishna	315	69425	7817	5479	Critical
3	Tapi	299	52058	4651	3256	Critical
4	WFR (Konkan)	91	31780	2264	1583	Safe
5	Narmada	8	1048	35	25	Safe
6	Mahanadi	4	354	27	19	Safe
<b>Total</b>		<b>1524</b>	<b>307263</b>	<b>32292</b>	<b>22610</b>	<b>Semi critical</b>

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No.148,180

Groundwater Surveys & Development Agency (GSDA) and CGWB have carried out the Groundwater Assessment, in the Year 2011-12, watershed-wise recharge, and annual gross groundwater draft and groundwater availability. Details of the Ground Water Availability are given in the Table no. 2. As per this assessment, total annual groundwater recharge is 32292 Mcum. However, in view of “safe” groundwater withdrawal only 70% of net groundwater should be utilized so as to avoid any undesired effect on groundwater potential.

Total water availability comprises of surface as well as ground water. Surface water availability is considered on the basis of natural water available at 75% dependability and the restrictions imposed by different tribunals/committees. Regarding Ground Water, though the Tribunals have permitted 100% use of ground water, State Water Board (SWB) has recommended 70% of groundwater for actual use and 30% to be allowed for ecological purposes. Thus basin/sub basin wise total water availability is given in the Table no. 3.

➤ **Basin wise Total Water Available and Allotted**

**Table No. 3: Basin-wise Surface & Ground Water Available in Maharashtra**

Sr No	Basin	Catch- ment Area (Sq. km)	%	Surface Water Available (Mcum)	Surface water allotted (Mcum)	GW Avail. In Mcum	Total Water Avail. (Mcum) (6+7)	%
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1	Godavari	152598	49.8	38607	29023	12248	41271	29.7
2	Krishna	69425	22.7	29300	16562	5479	22041	16.0
3	Tapi	52058	16.8	7027	5995	3256	9251	6.6
4	WFR	31780	10.3	64219	64219	1583	65802	47.4
5	Narmada	1048	0.3	308	308	25	333	0.2
6	Mahanadi	354	0.1	102	103	19	122	0.1
<b>Total:</b>		<b>3,07,263</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,39,562</b>	<b>1,16,210</b>	<b>22,610</b>	<b>1,38,820</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No.264,265 &271

**Water Potential in Marathwada**

The sub basin wise surface and ground water potential available in Marathwada is given below.

➤ **Surface Water Potential**

The yield calculated for various dependability, is the surface water available on the ground in the number of sub basins. The yield at 75% dependability is generally considered for the design of the projects. But, whole quantity of surface water available cannot be used in the

respective sub basins for the inter-state rivers like Godavari. And hence the tribunal has put some restrictions on the use of available surface water. The details of Surface Water Available & Allotted by the Tribunals are given in the Table no.4.

**Table No. 4  
 Details of Surface Water Available & Allotted in Marathwada**

Sr. No	Sub Basins	Cultivable Area (LHa)	Surface Water (Mcum)	
			Avail.	Allotted
1	2	3	4	5
1	Middle Godavari	15.88	2720	1826
2	Dudhana	4.49	398	368
3	Purna	8.06	1829	1338
4	Sudha- Suvarna	0.38	171	56
5	Manjra	6.86	758	623
6	Terna	3.01	274	226
7	Lendi	1.45	316	212
8	Manar	2.27	247	247
9	Kayadhu	1.88	333	333
10.	Penganga (Ptly)	3.85	2055	869
11.	Bhima (Up)(Ptly)	5.54	1543	1468
	Total	53.67	10644	7566

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, vol. I. Page No. 227 & 281

➤ **Ground Water Potential in Marathwada**

The ground water is one of the most important natural resources on the earth. It is the single largest and most readily available source of irrigation and large irrigation (above 50%) is depending on the ground water. In Maharashtra, a rapid growth of population and the consequent

increase in irrigated agriculture, drinking water supplies and industrial needs have focused the attention of concerned to developed new water sources. The sub basin wise ground water potential in Marathwada region is given in the Table no. 5.

**Table No. 5  
 Ground Water Assessment for the Sub-basins of Godavari Basin**

Sr No.	Sub Basins	No. of water sheds	Geographical area in LHa	Net Recharge G.W. in Mcum	
				100%	70%
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Middle Godavari	82	17.21	2551	1768
2	Dudhana	38	6.04	629	440
3	Purna	68	10.25	1409	986

4	Sudha- Suvarna	03	0.80	98	69
5	Manjra	37	7.23	860	602
6	Terna	16	3.24	383	268
7	Lendi	12	2.01	202	141
8	Manar	14	2.86	305	232
9	Kayadhu	09	2.24	360	252
10.	Penganga (Ptly)	20	3.80	364	250
11.	Bhima (Up)(Ptly)	35	5.83	612	417
	<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>61.51</b>	<b>7773</b>	<b>5425</b>

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, vol. I. Page No.

➤ **Total Sub Basin-wise Water Available in Marathwada**

Total water availability comprises of surface as well as ground water. Surface water availability is considered on the basis of natural water available at 75% dependability and the restrictions imposed by different tribunals/committees. Regarding Ground Water, though the Tribunals have

permitted 100% use of ground water, State Water Board (SWB) has recommended 70% of groundwater for actual use and 30% to be allowed for ecological purposes. Thus basin/sub basin wise total water availability is arrived as given in the Table no.6.

**Table No. 6 Basin-wise Surface & Ground Water Available in Marathwada**

Sr No	Sub Basin	Surface water Allotted (Mcum)	GW Avail. (70 % of Recharge) In Mcum	Total Water Avail. (Mcum) (3+4)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Middle Godavari	1826	1768	3594
2	Dudhana	368	440	808
3	Purna	1338	986	2324
4	Sudha- Suvarna	56	69	124
5	Manjra	623	602	1225
6	Terna	226	268	494
7	Lendi	212	141	353
8	Manar	247	232	479
9	Kayadhu	333	252	585
10.	Penganga (Ptly)	869	250	1119
11.	Bhima (Up)(Ptly)	1468	417	1885
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7566</b>	<b>5425</b>	<b>13091</b>

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No.264,265 &271

**Water Resources Development in Marathwada**

➤ **Surface Water Development in Marathwada**

Water resources Development planning for each sub-basin is based on the available water resources in the Sub-Basin subject to the allocation within framework of the tribunal award, present scenario

and future planning so as to obtain the optimal utilization of available water resources. The details of sub-basin wise irrigation development and water use are given in the Table no.7.

**Table No. 7**  
**The details of irrigation projects and water use in Marathwada**

Sr No	Sub Basin	Nos. of Projects		Total	Irrigation in Hectare	Water use in (Mcum)
		Completed	On-going			
1	Middle Godavari	331	46	377	224577	1292.09
2	Dudhana	106	16	122	92019	498.50
3	Purna	181	53	234	141604	1433.37
4	Sudha- Suvarna	17	04	021	5069	30.63
5	Manjra	178	10	188	101493	660.05
6	Terna	104	02	106	63455	312.96
7	Lendi	99	04	103	49040	261.04
8	Manar	215	15	230	82679	537.82
9	Kayadhu	24	07	031	37461	246.79
10.	Penganga (Ptly)	111	19	130	118084	810.0
11.	Bhima (Up)(Ptly)	160	10	170	177971	626.80
	Total	1526	186	1712	1093452	6710.05

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No.236 &482

➤ **Ground Water Development in Marathwada**

The ground water assessment is carried out in the State by the Groundwater Survey and Development Agency (GSDA) in the year 2011-12. The information is compiled as watershed-wise recharge annual gross groundwater draft and ground water availability for use of various purposes like driving irrigation and industry.

The assessment of total annual ground water recharge and net annual ground water availability

(70%) recharge is given below. Annual gross ground water draft from irrigation wells, domestic wells and bore wells is also given in the table. The allocation for domestic and industrial water supply needs to be kept reserved, based on projected population.

**Table No. 8**  
**Sub basin wise Ground Water Development in Marathwada**

Sr No.	Sub Basins	No. of water sheds	Net Recharge G.W. in Mcum 70%	Draft (i.e. GW in use) Mcum	Future use in Mcum (Col. 5-6)	No. of addl. Wells for Irri.
1	2	3	5	6	7	8
1	Middle Godavari	82	1768	1172	596	39765
2	Dudhana	38	440	391	49	3261
3	Purna	68	986	758	228	15201
4	Sudha- Suvarna	03	69	25	44	2928
5	Manjra	37	602	609	-7	0
6	Terna	16	268	322	-54	0
7	Lendi	12	141	87	54	3623
8	Manar	14	232	101	131	8683
9	Kayadhu	09	252	156	96	6426
10.	Penganga (Ptly)	20	250	125	125	8656
11.	Bhima (Up)(Ptly)	35	417	237	180	9520
	Total	341	5425	3621	1442	98063

Source: Integrated State Water plan for Maharashtra (2018), Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra, Vol.-I Page No. 204

**Water Transfer within the state of Maharashtra**

The most effective ways to increase the irrigation potential for increasing the food grain production, mitigate floods and droughts and reduce regional imbalance in the availability of water is considered to be the inter-linking of the rivers to transfer water from the surplus rivers to deficit areas. The criteria for the classification of the basin or sub basin are decided as per the guide lines given in the Report of Maharashtra Water and Irrigation Commission (1999) as given below:

- Below 1500 Cum per Ha of cultivable area - Highly deficit
- 1500 to 3000 Cum per Ha of cultivable area - Deficit
- 3000 to 8000 Cum per Ha of cultivable area - Normal
- 8000 to 12000 Cum per Ha of cultivable area - Surplus
- Above 12000 Cum per Ha of cultivable area - Abundant

Maharashtra State is covered by six river basins viz. Godavari, Krishna, Tapi, West Flowing Rivers (WFR-Konkan), Narmada and Mahanadi basins. Large variation of natural surface water availability within basins and sub-basins exists in Maharashtra State in general. Average annual

surface water availability varies from 0.16 Mm<sup>3</sup>/sq.km in Tapi basin to 2.07 Mm<sup>3</sup>/sq.km in west flowing rivers basin. Projects for interstate water transfer, inter-basin water transfer within State, as well as inter-sub-basin water transfer, are in existence and are also being planned. Shortage of water resources, continuous drought situations or flood situations, demand planning of such water transfer projects in aggrieved sub-basins or water deficit sub-basins in particular.

In almost all the basins, except WFR basin in the State, planning of the available water is completed. Some basins and sub-basins are facing the problems of shortage of water due to lesser availability of natural or allotted water, as well as increase in demand both for irrigation and non-irrigation purposes. Whereas some basins. eg WFR basin in the State have surplus water. In order to meet the demand of deficit basins, intra-state water transfer schemes similar on the line of interstate water transfer schemes are proposed. Those schemes include inter basin transfer as well as intra basin water transfer (Inter sub-basins) within the State. The details of planning for Transfer of water from surplus sub- basins to deficit sub-basins in the State are given in the Table no.9 and Figure no. 1.

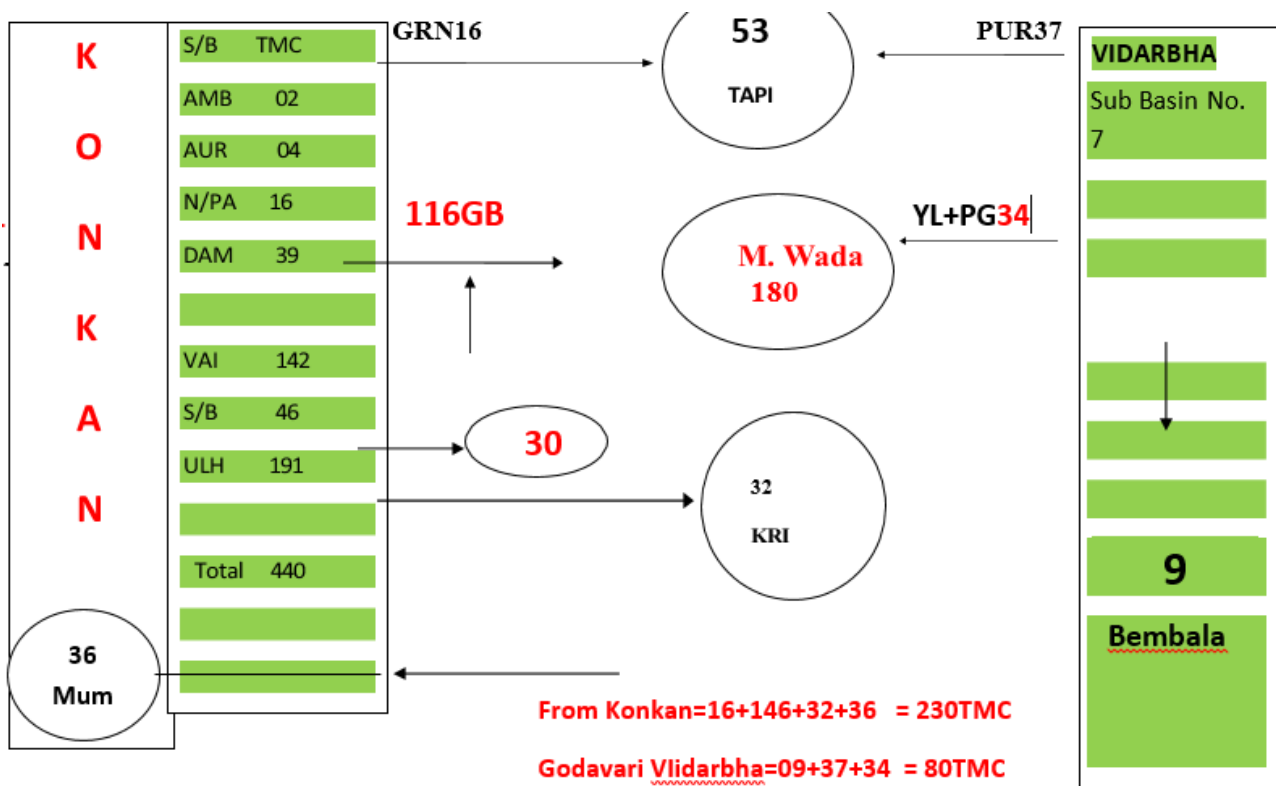
**Table No. 9**

**Transfer of Water from Surplus Sub- basins to Deficit Sub-basins in the State**

Sr. No.	Donor Basin (Surplus)		Donee Basin (Deficit)				Total (5+7)
	Basin	Qty. MCum (TMC)	Intra Basin	Qty. Mcum (TMC)	Inter Basin	Qty. Mcum (TMC)	Col. Mcum. (TMC)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Godavari	2261	Vidarbh (Bembala)	257	Tapi (Purna)	1051	1308
			M.Wada (Penganga)	553	-	-	553
			(Yeldari)	400	-	-	400
	Total	2261 (80)		1210 (43)	-	1051 (37)	2261 (80)
2.	WFR	12448	Mumbai (Domestic Water)	1000	I. Godavari		1000
					M. Wada	3297	3297
					Jayakwadi	850	850
					II. Krishna	890	890
					III. Tapi	463	463
	Total	12448 (440)	-	1000 (35)	-	5500 (195)	6500 (230)
	G.Total (TMC)	14709 (520)	-	2210 (78)	-	6551 (232)	8761 (310)

Source: Data compiled from the the Integrated State Water Plan Report (2018), GOM.

**Figure: 1**  
**Model for Intra & Inter Basin Transfer of Water**



1. From the above table and figure, it is seen that, the Godavari basin, in Vidarbha region is having 2261 Mcum (80 TMC) of surplus water in some sub basins, after keeping water up to 8000 Cum/Ha of culturable area (Normal Basin) for the use of those sub basins themselves. The surplus water is distributed as below.

257 MCum (9 TMC): - is proposed to be use in Bembala deficit sub basin under Vidarbha region i.e. intra basin transfer of water.

953 MCum (34 TMC): - this is also proposed as intra basin transfer of water to be used in Marathwada as 553 Mcum (20 TMC) for recoupmnt of Penganga dam storage & 400 Mcum (14 TMC) for Yeldari dam, being replacement of water used by Vidarbha region in the upstream reaches of these dams.

1051 MCum (37 TMC): -This water is also proposed as intra basin transfer of water

for the deficit sub basin like Satpuda, Tapi South and Purna of Tapi Basin.

Total: 2261 MCum. (80 TMC): -Proposed use from Surplus water of Godavari Basin for Deficit sub basins as above.

Thus, the surplus water of 520 TMC in Godavari and WFR basin is shown to be utilized up to 310 TMC for the deficit sub basin in the State.

2. From the above table and figure, it is seen that, the Godavari basin & WFR of Konkan Basin are having surplus water for transfer to other deficit basins.

The WFR of Konkan basin is of very much water surplus or abundant basin. All 28 sub basins are having surplus water of about 54870 Mcum (1940 TMC). But out of 28 sub basins, only 7 sub basins of north konkan are considered for transfer of water to Marathwada area in Godavari Basin, Krishna Basin and Tapi Basin being the nearest or



adjacent basins. The Surplus water proposed for transfer is as below.

1000 MCum (36 TMC): - This water will be intra basin transfer from WFR of Konkan Basin which can be use for domestic purpose in Mumbai city.

3297 MCum (116 TMC): - Inter basin transfer of water for Marathwada under Godavari deficit sub basins.

850 MCum (30 TMC): - Inter basin transfer of water for recoupmnt of Jaykwadi dam storage.

890 MCum (32 TMC): - Inter basin transfer of water for deficit area of Krishna basin.

463 Mcum (16 TMC): - Inter basin transfer of water for deficit Girna sub basin of Tapi basin.

650 Mcum (230 TMC): - Total use proposed from Surplus water of Konkan

#### **Basin for Deficit basins as shown above.**

Thus the total use of 230 TMC of water will be done from WFR basin out of total available water of 440 TMC in northest Konkan up to Ulhas sub basin.

#### **Way forward**

While studying the water resources development and management in the State the quantity of basin-wise water available is calculated by considering 75 % dependable yield, the sub-basin wise catchment area and the respective run-off. As the rivers are flowing Inter-States (except WFR) the water allotted by the Tribunals is considered for utilizing in the respective basins of the State. The surface water is proposed to be used for developing irrigation potential and for Non Irrigation use like domestic and industrial purposes. As per the guidelines for sectoral water use, prescribed by the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA) about 25 % storage of dams is proposed for N.I. use and

rest of storage is used for developing irrigation potential in the command area of the project. Similarly, the inter basin river linking proposals in Maharashtra State are in advance stage of planning for transfer of surplus water from the West Flowing Rivers (WFR) of Konkan Bas into Godavari Basin, Krishna Basin and Tapi Basin. The State has finalized the Integrated State Water Plan (ISWP), and the guidelines for transfer of water from surplus sub basins to deficit sub basins are also given very clearly. Accordingly, the sub basin-wise planning is done for all six basins in the State.

#### **References**

1. *Central water commission (2013), Report on water and related statistics, GOI*
2. *Report of the higher level committee on balanced regional development issues in Maharashtra. (Dr. Kelkar Committee) Report (2013), GOM.*
3. *P.C. Bansil (2004), A book on water management in India,*
4. *Ministry of water resources G.O.I www.mowr.nic.in (2007-07-15)*
5. *Maharashtra Water & Irrigation Commission Report (1999), Govt. of Maharashtra.*
6. *Irrigation status report (2016-17), Water Resources Department, Govt. of Maharashtra.*
7. *Integrated State Water Plan (2018), WRD, Govt. of Maharashtra.*
8. *Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005 (Amendments 2011 and 2016) M.S., India.*
9. *Maharashtra Groundwater (Development & Management) Act, 2009, GOM*