

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9/12/2022

ADOPTION OF WATER SAVING PRACTICES IN AGRICULTURE

343. SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:
SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:
SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:
SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efficiency of water consumption in agriculture compared to other countries and the reasons for low efficiency of water consumption in agriculture in the country;
- (b) whether Government is planning to launch a special campaign to motivate the farmers to adopt water saving technologies/practices in agriculture and other sectors;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per Twelfth Five Year Plan document published in May 2013, water use efficiency in agriculture in India is around 38 per cent compared to 45-60 per cent in some of the countries.

The factors identified by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in the document for explaining the low water use efficiency levels are less maintenance of canals & distribution network resulting in growth of weeds and vegetation within them, siltation of canals, damage of lining in lined canals, distortion of canal sections due to siltation, collapse of slopes, leakages in gates and shutters etc.

(b) to (d) : The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from 2015-16 in the Country. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems. Micro Irrigation helps in efficient water use at farm level through precision irrigation as well as reduces fertilizer usage through 'fertigation'. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed cost effective, location specific scientific technologies viz. rainwater

harvesting and recycling, precision technologies for irrigation and farming practices, adoption of modern agronomic practices, diversifying cropping pattern from water guzzling crops like low land rice and sugarcane to pulses, oilseeds, maize and agro-forestry etc. Further, ICAR imparts training and organizes field demonstrations to educate farmers in these regard.

Under the Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) programme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), lined field channels are constructed and wherever possible underground pipeline network is laid for providing last-mile connectivity to the irrigation system to enhance irrigation efficiency. The DoWR, RD & GR has set up Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) on 20.10.2022 for promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sector. The Bureau facilitates promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc. in the country. National Water Mission (NWM) launched the 'Sahi Fasal' campaign in 2019 to nudge farmers in water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water intensive but use water efficiently and are economically remunerative, healthy and nutritious and suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics.
