

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09th DECEMBER, 2022

VIRTUAL EXPORT OF WATER

370 SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study on the amount of embedded water that is exported from the country through agricultural goods, especially paddy exports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has come up with a long-term strategy to counter this virtual export of water?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) to (c) Sir, no such study has been conducted, however, the Government has been promoting water non-intensive crops.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh to diversify cropping patterns away from water guzzling paddy. Water conservation techniques like Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), System of Rice Intensification (SRI), alternate wetting & drying method, laser land levelling, adoption of short duration varieties, etc., are promoted under the programme.

DA&FW is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC), which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation, viz., Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. Further, under the National Water Mission (NWM) of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD &GR) 'Sahi-Fasal' campaign has been launched to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow water non-intensive crops which economically remunerative and suited to the agro-climatic zone of the area. The campaign aims at creating awareness among farmers on appropriate crops, micro-irrigation, soil moisture conservation etc.
