

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2025

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

REDUCING WATER-GUZZLING ACTIVITIES

2025. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that country has witnessed a continued decline in its per capita water availability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the continuing agriculture export of crops like rice and sugarcane is a matter of deep concern as it involves phenomenal amount of water usage;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce water-guzzling activities that are being outsourced for production to other developing countries by developed countries; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Based on the study titled "Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019" conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1,486 cubic meter and 1,367 cubic meter respectively.

(c) to (e) Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Per Drop More Crop' (PDMC) in the country since 2015-16. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation. The Government provides financial assistance @ 55% to small and marginal farmers and @ 45% to other farmers for installation of drip and sprinkler systems under the PDMC.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoA&FW) has been implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a sub-scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), in Original Green Revolution States viz; Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh since 2013-14, to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri cereals, cotton etc. CDP was extended to diversify tobacco crop in 10 tobacco growing States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal since 2015-16.

National Water Mission, for increase in water use efficiency in agriculture sector, launched "Sahi Fasal" campaign in 2019 to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which are not water-demand intensive, but use water very efficiently; and are economically remunerative, healthy and nutritious; suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area; and are environmentally friendly.

The Government has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, to facilitate promotion of water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc.
