

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 508
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 26/07/2024

RAINWATER AGRICULTURE DEPENDENCY IN JHARKHAND

508 # Shri Deepak Prakash:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that about 50 per cent of country's agricultural land is rain-fed but Jharkhand's rainwater agriculture dependency ratio is much higher than the national average; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a)& (b) As per the estimates available in Land Use Statistics at a Glance 2012-13 to 2021-22 issued by Economics Statistics and Evaluation Division of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, out of 141.01 million ha net area sown across the country, about 63.09 million ha. is unirrigated/rain-fed which is 44.7 per cent, whereas in case of Jharkhand, out of 1.38 million ha. net area sown, 1.10 million ha is unirrigated/rain-fed which is 79.7 per cent.

To address the issue of vulnerability of rain-fed area, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is implementing Rainfed Area Development (RAD) programme as a component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) across the country including Jharkhand. From 2014-15 till 2023-24, an area of 0.10 lakh ha has been covered under RAD in State of Jharkhand.

Besides, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the Country since 2015-2016. The Scheme focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems. From 2015-16 to 2023-24, an area of 0.41 lakh ha has been covered under PDMC in Jharkhand.

To enhance the production and productivity across the country including Jharkhand, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is implementing various programmes viz. Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanisation, National Food and Nutritional Security Mission, National Mission on Natural Farming, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Digital Agriculture, Mission on Integrated Development Horticulture, Seed Hub Program, Soil Health Mission etc. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also developed cost effective, location specific scientific technologies viz., bio-engineering water conservation measures for rainwater harvesting and in-situ moisture conservation and ex-situ storage of run-off water including micro rain water harvesting structure, tank-cum-well system for micro-level rain water harvesting and participatory watershed management to provide supplementary irrigation in water scarce areas and rainfed agriculture. ICAR advices for conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources, use of micro-irrigation, optimum irrigation scheduling, resource conservation technologies and imparts training to educate farmers on all these aspects.

Department of Land Resource (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY), which primarily focuses on development of rainfed/degraded lands. DoLR is providing Central assistance for watershed development projects in all States and UTs of J & K and Ladakh including Jharkhand. The main activities undertaken in the scheme, inter alia, include soil & moisture conservation measures, rain water harvesting measures, afforestation, horticulture and pasture development, livelihood activities etc.

As per the information provided by State of Jharkhand, total 4690 water harvesting Structures have been created/ rejuvenated and 5233 ha of additional area has been brought under protective irrigation under WDC since 2014-15 to 2021-22. Since approval of WDC-PMKSY part 2.0, total 30 watershed projects covering an area of 1.48 lakh ha at a total cost of Rs.393.53 crore (Central share of Rs.236.118 crore) have been sanctioned and till now, Rs.132.45 cr released as Central share. A total 1115 water harvesting Structures have been created/ rejuvenated and 1523 ha. additional area brought under protective irrigation under

WDC-2.0 during 2022-23. The Department has also issued advisories to States/UTs for rainwater harvesting drive for intensive water conservation activities in all these project areas.

Similarly, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Subernarekha Multipurpose Project under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)- Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programm (AIBP) to create ultimate irrigation potential of about 2.37 lakh ha in Jharkhand. From 2016-17 to 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 756.73 crore has been released as central Assistance for this project. Till 31.3.2024, irrigation potential of 1.43 Lakh ha has been created under the project.
