

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1094
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 2016

WATER-GUZZLING CROP

1094. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE **†ãðŠãäÓã** एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâããè be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sugarcane is a water-guzzling crop which often draw flak for diverting water for irrigation even at times of drought; and
- (b) if so, whether the Government has thought of any alternative to sugarcane cultivation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

†ãðŠãäÓã एवं किसान कल्याण ½ãâããè ½ãñâ Äã•¼ã ½ãâããè (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): Sugarcane consumes relatively more water for realizing optimum crop yields as compared to many other crops like wheat, pulses and coarse cereals. However, sugarcane consumes less water on per day basis & per unit weight of biomass produced. During drought condition, farmers irrigate their field as life saving irrigation.

(b): Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR) has extensively worked on sugarbeet crop as a supplement/alternative to sugarcane and introduced sugarbeet in Indian agriculture in 1950's. The agronomic feasibility & economic viability of the crop have been established under Indian condition.

In order to enhance water use efficiency and judicious use of water, assistance is given for promotion of water saving tools/technologies like sprinkler & drip irrigation and adoption of agronomic practices like alternate row/furrow irrigation, mulching etc.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds & Oil Palm (NMOOP), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) & Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which provides opportunity to the States to strengthen & diversify agriculture & allied activities.

Besides, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) also focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan' to ensure 'Per drop-more crop'.
