

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 292**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2023

**PROBLEMS FACED BY CULTIVATORS OF PADDY CROPS**

\*292. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:  
DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the problems being faced by the farmers for cultivation of paddy crops;
- (b) if so, the details of measures initiated by the Government for mitigating issues of paddy cultivators;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for promoting crop diversification in order to produce plants with less consumption of water; and
- (d) if so, the details of various crop varieties and their impacts?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 292 FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023 REGARDING “PROBLEMS FACED BY CULTIVATORS OF PADDY CROPS”.**

(a) & (b): Government is implementing a number of schemes for the development of farmers, including small farmers. These include, inter alia, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC), National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Matri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PMKMY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Programme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Scheme for promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), National Bee Keeping Honey Mission (NBHM), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) etc.

In order to enhance the production & productivity of foodgrain crops including paddy the Government is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in all the 28 states and 2 Union Territories. The NFSM-Rice is being implemented in 193 districts of 24 states & Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Under NFSM, assistance is given through state governments to paddy farmers for interventions including capacity building of farmers. The all India rice production has increased from 104.41million tonnes during 2015-16 to 130.84 million tonnes during 2022-23 (as per 2nd Advance estimates), which is a 25% increase in production over 2015-16.

National Agricultural Research System (NARS) comprising of Institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and State and Central Agricultural Universities including Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Pusa), New Delhi are involved in development and propagation of new high yielding and biotic/abiotic stress tolerant varieties of field crops including paddy. ICAR has a strong network of All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs)/ All India Network Projects (AINPs), coordinated by commodity Institutes, which are operational in the various Central and State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes and focusing on innovative research on developing new varieties seed of field crops. During 2014 to 2022, a total of 496 rice varieties including 8 bio-fortified varieties (rich in zinc/protein) have been released for cultivation in different agro-ecologies of country.

ICAR has eight Regional Committees covering all states and UTs. Scientists of ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), and officers of States Department of Agriculture participate and discuss various problems being faced by the states in the different areas of agriculture including paddy during Regional Committee meetings and programmes are formulated by the Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for addressing these issues. Officers of State Department of Agriculture give their feedback during Agriculture Officer Workshops about the various technologies developed and demonstrated in the states. All the outcome of research i.e., recommended varieties, production and protection technologies, seed production and popularization and spread of agricultural technologies are implemented with the involvement of State Department of Agriculture.

(c) & (d): The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) has been implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), a merged Cafeteria 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, Shree Anna (millets), cotton etc. Government of India supplements the efforts of state governments to encourage diversified production of crops such as pulses, coarse cereals, Shree Anna (millets) & cotton under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and high value horticultural crops under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). Further, a pilot project called “Diversification of 5 million hectares” in five years (2023-24 to 2027-28) in identified 75 districts of 17 states of the country has been approved for implementation by ICAR. In addition, the state government of Haryana is implementing “Mera Pani Meri Virasat” from 2020-21 for promoting crop diversification under which assistance of Rs. 7000 per acre is provided to farmers. Similarly, state governments of Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana etc., are also encouraging farmers for crop diversification through their state specific diversification schemes.

Government of India also provides flexibility to the states for state specific needs/priorities under RKVY. The states can promote crop diversification under RKVY with the approval of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the respective states.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its various research institutes across the country is working on developing the varieties suitable for drought/less water conditions. Rice growing methods such as System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) and aerobic systems etc., are in vogue and also research on these areas is being continued. Under SRI, there is a saving of 25-30% water consumption in rice cultivation, sustaining soil health with increased yields.

India has made progress in improving per unit yield of various crops by deploying the high yielding climate resilient varieties through enhanced seed and varietal replacement rates, which has resulted in increasing the overall productivity level of rice crop by 4.16 times during 2022-23 as compared to 1950-51. The productivity of rice has increased to 2781 kg/ha during 2022-23 from 2400 kg/ha during 2015-16, which is 16% increase. During the last 3 years viz., 2020, 2021 and 2022, a total of 69 less water requiring/drought tolerant field crop varieties have been developed including 17 varieties of rice.

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