

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2488**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021  
**CHALLENGES IN FARMING**

2488. SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to construct check dam to stop the loss of agricultural land due to flood and soil erosion near river banks in the Himalayan States especially in the hilly terrain of Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any committee has been formed by the Government to study horticulture farming in the hilly regions, if so, the details of the same;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme for the conservation of dwindling agricultural land in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): As per Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Public works relating to Natural Resource Management, water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve ground water like underground dykes , earthen dams, stop dams, check dams and roof top rain water harvesting structures in Government/Panchayat buildings with focus on recharging ground water including drinking water sources are permissible activities. In the State of Uttarakhand, 764 check dams have been completed with the total expenditure of Rs. 1271.97lakh in the year 2020-21.

Besides, Department of Land Resources is implementing Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in 27 States and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The activities undertaken *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc. In the

State of Uttarakhand, 99 Water harvesting structures have been created/rejuvenated under the scheme in the year 2020-21.

(b): The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States a sub-scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture for overall development of Horticulture in North East and Himalayan states/Union Territories. The Mission addresses entire spectrum of horticulture from production to consumption through backward and forward linkages.

(c)& (d): The DAC&FW is implementing Rainfed Area Development (RAD) and Soil Health Management / Card Schemes as components of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. The RAD focuses on Integrated Farming System for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Under RAD, an area of 4.9 lakh ha has been covered so far. Soil Health Management aims at promoting Integrated Nutrient Management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers including secondary and micro nutrients in conjunction with organic manures and biofertilizers for improving soil health and its productivity. In Cycle-I (2015 to 2017), 10.74 crore soil health cards were distributed to farmers. In Cycle-II (2017 to 2019), 11.93 crore soil health cards were distributed to farmers. In Model Village Programme (2019-20), 18.74 lakh soil health cards were distributed to farmers across the country.

Government is implementing Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, HarKhetKoPani, Watershed Development as components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Interventions of these schemes help in enhancing the physical access of water on the farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, integration of water source, distribution and its efficient use, to make best use of water through appropriate technologies and practices, and integrated development of rainfed areas using the watershed approach towards soil and water conservation, regeneration of ground water, arresting runoff.

The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is implementing "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" for works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, anti-sea erosion, flood proofing etc. in critical regions and restoration of damaged flood control/ management works.

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