

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.408
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH July, 2021

GROUNDWATER IRRIGATION IN AGRICULTURE

408. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that farmers are facing difficulties in groundwater-based irrigation due to the ban imposed on it and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the production of crops has been affected due to imposition of ban on groundwater-based irrigation and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering measures such as encouraging alternative crops and adopting micro-irrigation to deal with the said problems and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide all possible assistance to the farmers in this situation and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of schemes that are available to provide irrigation in rain-fed agricultural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): As per the Guidelines for 'Control and regulation of groundwater extraction' notified by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on 24 September 2020, Agriculture sector has been exempted from obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water extraction.

(c) & (d): For promoting alternative crops, rainfed area development and micro-irrigation systems in the country, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is implementing various programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Per Drop More Crop which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System; Rainfed Area Development Programme to promote Integrated Farming System for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability; National Food Security Mission for Cultivation of pulses and coarse cereals and oilseeds as these crops require less water; Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) to diversify cropping pattern away from water guzzling paddy; Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) for holistic growth of horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, etc.

Under these schemes, the financial assistance and advisories are provided to farmers for adopting the best practices for efficient water management and agro-ecologically suitable crops.

Besides, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through their Institutes and State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are addressing issues related to judicious use of water ensuring higher water and crop productivity in the country.

(e) Government is implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective to enhance physical access of water and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. The components of PMKSY are:

- i. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme: To focus on faster completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation projects including National Projects. Being implemented by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR)
- ii. PMKSY -HarKhetKoPani: Source augmentation, distribution, ground water development, lift irrigation, diversion of water from water plenty to water scarce areas, repair, restoration, renovation of traditional water bodies. Being implemented by DoWR, RD&GR.
- iii. PMKSY- Per Drop More Crop: Focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation viz. Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System being implemented by DAC&FW.
- iv. PMKSY- Watershed Development Component: Ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting structure, livelihood support activities and other watershed works. Being implemented by Department of Land Resources.
