

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2603
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2022

SALINATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

2603. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problem of large-scale salination of agricultural lands in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted to find the reasons behind such salination of lands;
- (c) if so, the results of such study; and
- (d) the measures that the Government is taking to reclaim such salinated lands and to prevent salination of agricultural lands in the future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a to d): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, 'land' comes under the purview of State Governments. However Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments through various programmes/schemes. Periodic assessment studies to take stock of wastelands in the country are commissioned by the Government of India. Based on these studies a "Wastelands Atlas of India 2019" was released on 4th November, 2019, as per which state of salinity/alkalinity has been assessed in Maharashtra State including Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts. The causes of salination in these districts are low permeability and poor drainage of black soils, improper irrigation water management in canal and lift irrigated commands of black cotton soil areas and growing of water intensive crops such as sugarcane, rice, turmeric etc.

Government is implementing the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) with primary objective to develop rainfed/degraded lands in the country. The activities undertaken, inter alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons etc. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal is providing technical assistance as and when required the sub-surface drainage. Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) a component Reclamation of Problem Soil is operational from 2016-17.
