

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1289

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

SURVEY FOR STRENGTHENING IRRIGATION SYSTEM IN JHARKHAND

1289. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any recent survey in Jharkhand regarding percentage of agricultural land that does not have irrigation system as paddy is the main crop of the State and there is no adequate water system for it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the dependence on rain could be reduced; and
- (c) the Government's response to the damage caused due to monsoon-based farming in the State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि और किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): As per Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare annual publication namely; 'Land Use Statistics at a Glance, 2022-23' based on information furnished by States/UTs, out of total 1.23 million hectares gross cropped area of Jharkhand, 0.21 million hectares area is reported as gross irrigated area.

The Government has implemented several initiatives to reduce dependency on rainfed, enhance irrigation infrastructure, promote sustainable water management practices, and develop climate-resilient agricultural systems to reduce dependence on rainfall and mitigate the impacts of irregular monsoons. Key measures include:

I. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY): Launched in 2015, PMKSY aims to enhance irrigation coverage and water-use efficiency. It focuses on providing irrigation to every field, promoting water conservation, and improving water-use efficiency. The scheme includes components like Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Har Khet Ko Pani, which work towards expanding irrigation infrastructure.

II. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY): Under RKVY, state governments are advised to allocate 5 to 10% of the funds for interventions that minimize the adverse impact of aberrant monsoons on agriculture. This includes constructing water harvesting structures, promoting moisture conservation practices, and restoring irrigation infrastructure.

III. Promotion of Climate-Resilient Crop Varieties: The government has been developing and promoting climate-resilient seed varieties to withstand erratic weather patterns.

IV. Organic Farming Initiatives: Programs like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) encourage organic farming practices, which often require less water and are more resilient to climate variability. This initiative supports farmers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices.

V. Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) is for the development of rainfed and 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. WDC-PMKSY, through these interventions, seeks to ensure sustainable development through improved natural resource management and better resilience of farmers to climate change. These initiatives collectively aim to enhance irrigation infrastructure and promote sustainable water management practices to reduce dependence on rainfall and mitigate the impacts of irregular monsoons.

(c): The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature and is approved on the basis of Memorandum received from the State Government, in accordance with established procedures.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) provides relief under NDRF to farmers who have lost their crops due to drought, hailstorm, pest attack and cold wave/frost.

Further, to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the component of interest subvention is available on the restructured amount to banks for the first year and such restructured loans would attract normal rate of interest from the second year onwards as per the policy laid down by RBI. Interest subvention and prompt repayment incentive on restructured crop loans is also given to farmers affected by severe natural calamities for a maximum period of 5 years based on the report of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for grant of NDRF assistance and Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC).

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS), a flagship scheme of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with the objective to protect farmers from crop loss due to unforeseen natural calamities from pre-sowing to post harvest and to provide adequate financial support to farmers in the event of loss of crops. Jharkhand has implemented PMFBY since Kharif 2024.
