

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 422**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 02<sup>ND</sup> December, 2025

**SHORTAGE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION**

422. SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:

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 recurring drought-like conditions in various parts of Ladakh, due to reduced snowfall, glacial retreat, and rising temperatures resulting from global warming, leading to severe shortage of water for irrigation purposes;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to assess the long-term impact of climate change on water availability for agriculture in high altitude cold desert regions of Ladakh;
- (c) the details of steps being taken/proposed to be taken to mitigate the shortage of water for agricultural needs, including implementing any region-specific drought-resilient agricultural practices, traditional water harvesting systems or crop insurance mechanisms suited to Ladakh's agro-climatic conditions; and
- (d) whether any special assistance or financial package is being considered for Ladakh to mitigate climate-induced water scarcity and sustain local agriculture and horticulture in the region?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR)

- (a) to (d): Yes, the Government is aware of the challenges posed by climate change on agriculture in the country, including Ladakh. Several steps have been taken to deal with adverse climate situations in the agriculture sector. As reported by UT Government of Ladakh, steps have been taken to mitigate the shortage of water for agricultural needs in Ladakh, and to promote region-specific drought-resilient agricultural practices suited to its unique agro-climatic conditions. The UT of Ladakh is extending financial assistance to address climate-induced water scarcity and to support sustainability of local agriculture and horticulture through various schemes and region-specific interventions as detailed below:

- i. About 283 hectares of area has been brought under micro-irrigation systems under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme and Special Development Package (SDP).
- ii. An expenditure of ₹12.33 lakh has been incurred for establishment of an Automatic Ice Reservoir (Artificial Glacier) under the District Capex during the year 2024–25.
- iii. An expenditure of ₹72.50 lakh has been incurred for implementation of mulching technology under Other Special Area Program (OSAP) 33 – Subsidy during the year 2024–25.

Besides, one medium irrigation project in the UT of Ladakh, namely, the Parkachik Khows Canal Project, was included under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana – Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme during 2015–16. An amount of ₹2.98 crore has been provided for the project, and an irrigation potential of 1,500 hectares has been developed under it till date.

\*\*\*\*\*