

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1429
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
DEPENDENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON MONSOON
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of agriculture dependant upon the monsoon in the country;
- (b) whether some alternative arrangements have been made for rainfed agriculture in view of uncertainty of the monsoon;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any assessment has been made regarding the percentage of farmers utilizing ground water for irrigation of crops; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): About 57% of the net sown area is monsoon dependant.

(b) & (c): Government has accorded very high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through integrated watershed management approach. Following major schemes are being implemented by Government to enhance soil and water conservation.

Ministry of Agriculture

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)

(ii) Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

Ministry of Rural Development

(iv) Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) to address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development of rainfed areas. Under the programmes like Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Food Security Mission, Micro Irrigation, National Horticulture Mission also, special focus is given to rainfed areas for improving the livelihood and agricultural productivity.

(d) & (e): No specific assessment has been made regarding percentage of farmers utilizing ground water for irrigation. However, assessment of ground water resources is carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations. As per the assessment carried out during 2004, the ground water draft for irrigation is 212 billion cubic meter per year. About 60% of the total irrigated land in the country is irrigated by ground water.