

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5069
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
CROPS FOR COMMAND AREAS
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to evolve and provide new range of crops which can minimize the damage of farm production in the reservoirs command areas; and

(b) 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) & (b): The cause of damage to farm production in reservoir command area is due to inadequate and uncertain water supply for crops. It is also due to development of secondary Salinization and waterlogging resulted from faulty irrigation practices and excess application of irrigation water. In order to control the damage to the crops, ICAR has developed improved water management interventions of different crops to reduce the gap between demand and supply of irrigation water. Water-use efficient irrigation schedules have been developed for different crops grown in command areas, particularly, for crops with high water requirements like rice, sugarcane, banana etc. To effect economy in water-use, efficient irrigation methods like drip and sprinkler have been promoted and popularized for wide range of cereals, fruits and vegetable crops in command areas. ICAR has developed submergence tolerant rice varieties namely Varshadhan and Swarna sub-1 and saline tolerant varieties namely Lunishree and Sonamani that have been popularized in command areas.