

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1483
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
CROP YIELD IN RAIN FED AREAS
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a substantial gap between the potential and actual yields of crops in rainfed areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the programmes being implemented by the Government to increase the crop productivity in the rainfed areas alongwith the budgetary outlays and expenditure for these programmes during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds are predominantly grown under rainfed conditions in the country. The average yield gap between farmers' practice and farm trials is in the range of about 600-800 kg/ha in these crops. Use of low quality farm saved seeds, moisture stress suboptimal application of fertilizers, no application of micronutrients and poor plant population are the main reasons for low yield under farmers' practice.

(c) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing three watershed programmes viz.

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA);

(ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR);
and

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) in rainfed/degraded areas to enhance the productivity of crops. The physical and financial progress of these programmes for last three years (2008-09 to 2010-2011) is given at Annexure-I.