

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4803
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
HIGH YIELDING CROPS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is emphasising the need or taking any steps to develop crops which give high yields despite low irrigation in view of the continuous fall/ depletion in the ground water level in the country for the last two years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to run any campaign to raise awareness about such crops amongst farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The Government is emphasizing on diversification of agriculture to include crops/varieties requiring less water.
- (b) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities have developed several early maturing varieties of crops which perform well under moisture stress/drought conditions. In rice techniques like System Rice Intensification (SRI), direct seeded rice (DSR), aerobic rice, alternate wet and drying (AWD) conditions are being standardized which require less water than normal transplanted rice. In wheat varieties suitable for rainfed and restricted irrigations have been developed. In some areas, maize as a rabi crop is giving excellent profitable results and this crop requires less water than rice.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Government under the programme "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India" is promoting SRI in rice to save water and other inputs. Under the other programme "Initiation on Nutritional Security through intensive millets promotion (INSIMP)" millets, which require very less water, are being promoted. Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) are being conducted on Rabi maize to popularize this crop in place of rice and other high water requiring crops. During presentation of the Central Budget 2013-14 a scheme "Crop Diversification in Original Green Revolution States" has been announced. This scheme will consider growing crops will less water in states like Punjab, Haryana and Western UP.