

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6538
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013
MICRO WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the micro-water conservation projects have changed the rural life in those areas facing shortage of water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to promote water conservation in areas facing shortage of water in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which farmers are likely to be benefited through the said projects?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Madam. Studies conducted by various outside agencies reveal that various soil and water conservation interventions including micro water conservation structures adopted under watershed development programmes have been effective in prevention of soil erosion, in-situ moisture conservation & augmentation of ground water and creation of small water resources/micro-water conservation structures, leading to socio-economic upliftment of rural people.

(c) to (e): Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture is implementing various schemes/programmes/missions, namely, National Food Security Mission(NFSM), National Horticulture Mission(NHM), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana(RKVY) with a view to increase the productivity of agricultural land & sustaining foodgrain production. Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing a major Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water in the country.

These schemes/missions also envisage creation of micro-water conservation structures in rainfed/dryland areas across the country. Various interventions adopted under these programmes may lead to better utilization of natural resources besides increasing production and productivity of agricultural lands/produce.