

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2071
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013
JUDICIOUS USE OF WATER .
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poor knowledge of irrigation and excessive use of water has led to salination of fields all over the country;
- (b) if so, whether there is any system to caution water users that water should be used carefully and not excessively;
- (c) if so, the details of the body which educates the public on this aspect;
- (d) the steps the Government is taking to ensure that water-logging and salination by irrigated water do not destroy arable land all over the country; and
- (e) the measures proposed to stop such wastage due to over use of irrigation facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) Poor On-Farm Water Management, comprising inadequate provision of drainage and poor maintenance of existing drainage systems and outlets, lack of conjunctive use of surface and ground water etc., is one of the reasons for water logging which results in soil salination in some irrigated commands. Natural factors, which may also lead to water logging, include poor natural drainage; spilling of rivers; heavy storm rainfall etc. In addition, water logging is also caused because of other man-made factors like deforestation and poor upkeep of watersheds; developmental activities such as construction of roads, bridges, railway lines and buildings; hydraulic pressure of water from upper irrigated areas; seepage from canals, distributaries etc.
- (b) Water Users Associations (WUAs)/farmers and other field functionaries are trained through the software components under Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme for judicious use of water in the irrigated commands.
- (c) Central assistance is being released to States to undertake the software components such as training, demonstrations, adaptive trials etc. National Level Training programmes are also being organised by the Ministry through the WALMIs/IMTs and other State/regional training institutes.
- (d) Both preventive as well as ameliorative measures are being taken under CADWM programme of the Ministry implemented as State Sector Scheme to check water logging and salinity. The preventive measures include lining of canals in vulnerable reaches, on-farm development works such as construction of lined field channels and drains, rotational supply (warabandi) of irrigation water to farmers, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, propagation of improved methods of irrigation among farmers through training, adaptive trials and demonstrations. Ameliorative measures include construction of surface and sub-surface drains, vertical drainage and bio-drainage for disposal of excess water and leaching of soil to flush out excess salts from root zone of crops. The above measures have proved effective in checking water logging and salinity.
- (e) Capacity building of the WUAs/farmers /field functionaries has been proposed through training & demonstrations to be organised by WALMIs/IMTs and other State/regional training institutes. The infrastructure of WALMIs/IMTs is proposed to be strengthened for organisation of these activities.