

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2212

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

WATER LOGGING AND FAULTY DRAINAGE SYSTEM

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is problem of water salinity, water logging and drainage system in irrigated commands in most parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether water logging and faulty drainage system causes flood like situation in some States including Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan;
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government to check the salinity of water, water logging and faulty drainage system; and
- (e) the funds allocated and released in this regard to various States, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. With the start of the planned irrigation development in the post independence era, farmers started using irrigation water in the irrigated commands. In areas, where rainfall is high and the drainage is deficient, this results in the inundation of adjoining areas and rise of ground water table. The seepage from unlined canals further aggravates the problem. The rise in ground water table brings the excessive harmful salts on the land surface causing salinity. As per the Study Report, January, 2009 on "Assessment of Water logging and Salt Affected area in the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in the country" undertaken by the Central Water Commission in collaboration with Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Jodhpur, State-wise details of water logged and salt affected areas in major and medium irrigation commands are given in Annex-I.

(c) In the event of excess rain, flood like situations are observed in certain States including Uttar Pradesh due to faulty drainage system. However, Rajasthan occasionally suffers from flash floods.

(d) Both preventive as well as ameliorative measures are being taken 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) State-wise details of funds released to take up various components of Command Area Development and Water Management Programme including reclamation of water logged areas during last two years of XI Plan are given in Annex-II.