

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:83  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015  
DRY LAND FARMING  
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has identified dry land agricultural region/rainfed areas in the country including Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the farmers of dry land agricultural regions are facing great hardship/in miserable condition due to prevalent drought like natural calamities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of schemes introduced for the development of the dry land farming and address the problems of farmers in such areas; and
- (e) whether the Government has also taken steps to create awareness of new scientific and technical know-how of agriculture amongst farmers to address the problem of drought in the dry land regions in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): As per available estimates (2011-12), about 75 million ha of net sown area of nearly 140 million ha is rainfed. The State wise details of rainfed areas is annexed.

(c): Agriculture operations in rainfed/Dry land areas mostly depend on rainfall and so very vulnerable to change in climatic events. Any variation in rainfall pattern, intensity and number of events has large implication on agriculture production and productivity. Farmers are affected, if natural calamities like drought, flood etc. occurs.

(d): Government has accorded priority to holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas. In all major development programmes of Ministry of Agriculture, viz., National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), etc., emphasis is given to rainfed/ dryland areas.

In addition, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) to specifically address development of rainfed/degraded areas.

(e): Capacity building, skill development and awareness on scientific and technical knowledge on rainfed/dry land farming are supported under all major programmers of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture (CRIDA), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc. are also involved in creating awareness of new scientific and technical know-how of agriculture amongst farmers to address the problems of drought in the dry land regions in the country.