

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014
WATER LOGGING AND SALINITY IN COMMAND AREAS
Sigrival Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Water Commission has conducted any assessment of the extent of water logging and salinity in Command Areas and if so, the findings thereof;
- (b) whether the water logging and salinity in Command Areas have impacted the farmers and if so, the Command Areas of irrigated land affected due to water logging and salinity, State-wise during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make such land cultivable and compensate the farmers affected by water logging and salinity of soil;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the number of farmers compensated for the purpose, State-wise during the above period; and
- (e) the other corrective actions taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI)

(a)to(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2014 REGARDING 'WATER LOGGING AND SALINITY IN COMMAND AREAS'

(a) Yes, Madam. Central Water Commission conducted a study on "Assessment of Water logging and Salt Affected areas in the Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in the country" in collaboration with Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Jodhpur, during the period from October 2003 to June, 2008. As per the Study Report, out of total command area of 88895.62 thousand hectare (th.ha.) being served by major and medium irrigation projects during the period of study, an area of 1719.279 thousand hectare (th.ha.) (1.93%) was water logged. Perennial water logging covers 173.15th.ha. (0.19%) whereas seasonal water logging covers 1546.13th. ha.(1.74%). Details are at Annex-I.

(b) There is no specific information available regarding the impact on farmers due to water logging. However, a recent study conducted by the World Bank showed that India loses 1.2-2.0 million tons of food grain production every year due to water logging.

(c)&(d) The Government releases central assistance to the States against their proposals for reclamation of waterlogged areas in irrigation commands covered under Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme. An area of about 78 th.ha has been reclaimed by the States under CADWM Programme upto March, 2013. The State-wise details are at Annex-II.

(e) A committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, former Member, Planning Commission has made certain recommendations to ameliorate the problem of water logging through drainage (surface and sub-surface) works in South-West Punjab at a cost of Rs.960 Crores. Accordingly, Planning Commission has requested the Ministry of Finance to release Rs.100 crore to Punjab as Additional Central Assistance.