

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3584  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015  
Re-use of Waste Water for Irrigation  
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of water for irrigation in the country and many bigahs of land remains unproductive due to this reason;
- (b) whether the Government is considering to implement a scheme for reusing of the sea water and treated sewage, drainage or waste water on the line of Israel and Spain;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for reusing the treated waste water for agriculture purpose?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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(a): As per available information, out of total precipitation of about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM), nearly 1123 BCM is available for use in the country. The ultimate irrigation potential is estimated to be about 139.9 Million Hectare.

It is estimated that the net sown area in the country is about 141 million hectare, of which about 65 million hectare is irrigated and remaining 76 million hectare is rainfed.

(b) & (c): No specific scheme for reusing of the sea water and treated sewage, drainage or waste water for irrigation is being implemented presently.

(d): Ministry of Urban Development has brought out guidelines for recycling of waste water for various non potable use including agriculture and horticultural purposes. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) has been launched for development of basic urban infrastructure in 500 cities/ towns. Sewerage is one of the components of the mission, which consist of (i) New, augmentation and rehabilitation of sewerage system and treatment plants; (ii) Recycling of water for beneficial purposes and (iii) Reuse of waste water. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its All India Coordinated Research Project on Irrigation Water Management and Consortia Research Platform on Water is addressing issues related to judicious use of water including poor quality water for irrigation in the country. For efficient management of waste water, the ICAR advocates conjunctive use of fresh and poor/marginal quality water, and use of waste water in forestry plantations/ non-edible non-food crops/ industrial crops, aromatic grasses and floriculture plants.

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