

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:251
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
DEPENDENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON MONSOON
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agriculture mainly depends on monsoon;
- (b) if so, the details of area of cultivable land dependent on monsoon, State-wise;
- (c) the details of population engaged in agriculture sector in the country including Maharashtra, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the dependency of agriculture on monsoon; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (c): The net sown area in the country is about 140.80 million ha. of which 65.26 million ha. area is covered under irrigation and the remaining 75.53 million ha. is rainfed. State-wise distribution of rainfed areas is given at Annexure-I. A state wise detail of number of operational holdings is given at Annexure-II.

(d) & (e): 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), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc., construction of farm ponds & others means of water harvesting are encouraged to provide protective irrigation to farm lands. Further, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) under which water harvesting structures are taken up to provide live saving irrigation to crops.