

pan>

**Title : Incorporation of a comprehensive crop diversification model-  
Laid**

**SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR (VIZIANAGARAM):**  
India's economy is highly dependent on agriculture. The sector, however, is experiencing slower growth as the states' cropping intensity and irrigation potential have not been fully exploited. Ideally, groundwater should be available at a depth of 50 ft to 60 ft, but in several states, its level has significantly dropped to 150 ft to 200 ft in most places. Many attribute this drastic fall to an indiscriminate extraction of groundwater in the last two decades.

The intensive groundwater extraction in the last five decades through the installation of shallow tube wells is reflected in tube well number. This overexploitation has made groundwater not only scarce but also increasingly alkaline.

There is a dire need to incorporate a comprehensive crop diversification model, stressing the need to prioritize the cultivation of crops that consume less water like maize, cotton and sugar cane. However, due to the absence of the Central/State government's assured market/guaranteed price for the other products as well, the idea of crop diversification seems far-fetched.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to take cognizance of the same and incorporate a comprehensive crop diversification model and promote assurance of market and a guaranteed price for diverse produce.