

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1461**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025

**SUSTAINABLE CROP PLANNING**

1461. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed structural overdependence on water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane in States facing groundwater depletion;
- (b) whether a district-wise ecological zoning approach has been considered to align crop choices with agro-climatic sustainability and market demand; and
- (c) whether the Government plans to integrate MSP incentives, procurement priorities and input subsidies to promote sustainable crop diversification?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a): The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country including water-stressed regions are being assessed every year from 2022 jointly by the Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti and the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has not carried out any assessment regarding structural overdependence on water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane in states facing groundwater depletion.

(b): Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Modipuram and ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur jointly prepared the agro-ecological and district crop plan for 14 major crops namely rice, wheat, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, pigeonpea, chickpea, soybean, mustard, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane, potato and onion by combining the

Relative Spread Index (RSI), Relative Yield Index (RYI), Sustainable Yield Index (SYI) and Soil-climate suitability index (SCSI).

(c): The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under the Pradhan Mantri - Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) in the Original Green Revolution States viz., Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh (UP) to divert the area of water intensive paddy crop to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, cotton. Under CDP, assistance is given for alternative crop demonstration, farm mechanization and value addition, site specific activities and for awareness, training etc. Further, Government of India is also promoting these crops under various schemes namely National Food Security & Nutrition Mission (NFSNM) for pulses, coarse cereals, nutri cereals (Shree Anna) and oilseeds under the National Mission on Edible Oil (NMEO)-Oilseeds.

The Government fixes minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated agricultural crops including coarse cereals, pulses, oilseeds etc on the basis of the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned.

As per Guidelines of Department of Food and Public Distribution on procurement, allocation, distribution and disposal of coarse grains, States are allowed to procure Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Barley, Ragi and six minor millets from farmers at MSP under central pool subject to the prior approval of Government of India, in consultation with Food Corporation of India (FCI). Procurement of pulses and oilseeds is made at MSP as per the schemes under Pradhan Mantri - Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme of DA&FW. The procurement of Notified Pulses are done under Price support Scheme (PSS) by the Central Nodal Agencies through State designated Agencies during harvesting season.

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