

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:169
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
DEPENDENCE OF AGRICULTURE ON RAIN
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether even after 58 years of Independence of the country and Ten Five Year Plans, 60% of cultivable land continues to depend on rain;
- (b) if so, the extent to which rain dependence of agricultural land has declined since Fifth Five Year Plan;
- (c) the steps taken during the last three years to minimize total rain dependence of agriculture; and
- (d) the further steps proposed for the last phase of the Tenth Five Year Plan in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 169 DUE FOR REPLY ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2005.

(a)&(b): As per statistics available 60% of cultivable land is rainfed. During the period from the 5th Plan to the 10th Plan the percentage of rainfed agricultural land has declined from 73.4% to 60%. Details are indicated in the Table below:-

Area in `000 hectares)

Five Year Plan (last year)	Net Area Sown	Net Irrigated Area	Rainfed Area	Percent Rainfed
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V Plan	142981	38059	104922	73.4
VI Plan	140892	42145	98747	70.1
VII Plan	142339	46702	95637	67.2
VIII Plan	142813	55049	87764	61.5
IX Plan	141383	55853	85530	60.5
X Plan (First year)	132798	53131	79667	60.0

(c)&(d): Total dependence of agriculture on rains can be minimized mainly through assured irrigation coverage and through improved water management practices. However, following schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development to enhance soil and water conservation.

Ministry of Agriculture

- (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
- (ii) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)
- (iii) Watershed Development project in shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)
- (iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)

Ministry of Rural Development

- (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
- (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP)
- (vii) Integrated Waste Land Development Programme (IWDP)

The area developed during the last three years under these programmes is 62.02 lakh hectare at an expenditure of Rs.3287.06 crores. The above schemes will be continued up to the end of X Five Year Plan.