

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2380
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2009
IRRIGATION FOR DROUGHT HIT AREAS
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of shortfall in monsoon the Government has made any alternate arrangements for irrigation to help the farmers in the sowing season and to save the crops in the country including Bundelkhand area of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Agriculture has been closely monitoring the kharif sowing progress in the states through series of meetings/videoconferences in the wake of slow progress of monsoon. State wise alternate strategies have been prepared and accordingly states have been given flexibility to use the funds of GOI schemes to meet the contingent situations in the event of deficient rainfall, particularly for purchase and distribution of additional quantity of seeds, support for micro-irrigation, etc.

In addition, there are funds available under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) and funds under NREGA which can also be used to augment local water resources.

In view of the deficient rainfall, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation has issued an advisory to the State governments for efficient use of available water. In this regard, States are also directed to use the technical support of KVKs, Agriculture Universities and also the information available on ICAR website in planning and implementing the alternate strategies for the optimum utilisation of available rainfall.