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Title: Need to provide subsidies to farmers for installation of micro irrigation systems and to create awareness among farmers about the uses of micro-irrigation.

**SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR):** Agriculture in India is largely rain-fed hence prone to temporal and spatial variations in rainfall. Already this year, the Indian Meteorological Department has stated that the monsoon deficit in the country is at 31 percent. As per the State of Indian Agriculture Report 2012-13, average annual rainfall in the country is 4000 billion cubic meters (BCM), out of which utilizable water resources are only 1123 BCM. Even today, in absence of newer technology, irrigation is done through tube-wells and dugwells, which depend on the fast depleting groundwater.

Ground water in the country has been exploited due to unregulated use and heavy power subsidies. With respect to efficiency of water use, the sector is found lacking here as irrigation efficiencies from surface water vary in the range of 35-40%, while for ground water-it is about 65-75%.

It is time we look at newer and environmentally sustainable ways of irrigation and reducing the farmers' vulnerabilities. Even though the government has launched the National Mission for Micro Irrigation in 2010 which promotes drip and sprinkler technologies, which in turn enhances efficiency of water application, it has still not taken off due to high costs and lack of awareness. Only about 0.5 million hectare of land is covered under micro-irrigation.

Hence, I would request the government to provide subsidies to farmers for installation of Micro irrigation systems, so that they do not face the burden of high cost of equipment and also promote this scheme to create more awareness about the uses of micro irrigation.