

**Drip irrigation system that saves water and power**

\*444. SHRI KALPATARU DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has initiated certain drip irrigation system for agriculture that saves water and power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether farmers in the State are proposed to be granted subsidy in the matter;

(d) whether this project is equally proposed for implementation in other States to boost agriculture and save water and power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (e) Sir, Central Government has been providing financial assistance since 2005-06 under National Mission on Micro Irrigation to farmers in all States, including Punjab, for installation of micro irrigation systems. From this year, such assistance is being provided under “On Farm Water Management” (OFWM) component of “National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture” (NMSA). Under OFWM, Central assistance is provided to farmers in all States for installation of micro irrigation systems, namely, drip and sprinkler irrigation system, for an area up to 5 ha per farmer, at the rate of 35% for small and marginal farmers and 25% for other farmers.

As per OFWM guidelines, in addition to the Central assistance, 10% assistance is required to be provided by the State Governments to the farmers. However, some States are providing enhanced financial assistance to farmers from their own resources. Government of Punjab has decided to provide additional subsidy of 45%, in addition to the Central assistance and mandatory 10% State share. For area beyond 5 ha, entire subsidy is borne by the Government of Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questioner not present. Any supplementaries?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, drip irrigation is the only micro irrigation which uses the water fully. But, there is a hurdle in using the drip irrigation now though all the States are now encouraging it. Even some States are giving a 100 per cent subsidy.

But, availability of fertilizers is the problem. There is non-availability of water soluble liquid fertilizers. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has got any idea of importing the water soluble liquid fertilizers and give it to the farmers on subsidised rates. Thank you, Sir.

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह :** महोदय, फर्टीलाइजर का मामला मेरे मंत्रालय से संबंधित नहीं है।

SHRI D. RAJA: This is related to this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह :** सर, मैं इसे गंभीरता से ले रहा हूँ और इस संबंध में बात करूंगा।

**श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल :** सभापति महोदय, इस देश की 72 प्रतिशत आबादी किसानों की है, उनके लिए ओ.एफ.डब्ल्यू.एम. (On Farm Water Management) के तहत एन.एम.एस.ए. (National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture) के द्वारा सूक्ष्म सिंचाई, ड्रिप और स्प्रेक्लर लगाने के लिए पंजाब सहित सभी राज्यों में 2005-2006 से वित्तीय सहायता दी जा रही है। जमीनी हकीकत यह है कि गत दो-तीन सालों से यह जो सहायता है, या सब्सिडी है, वह किसानों तक नहीं पहुंची है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने उन्हें सीधे सहायता देने लिए कोई कदम उठाए हैं?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह :** सभापति जी, यह सहायता हम राज्यों को दे रहे हैं और लगातार दे रहे हैं। कई राज्यों ने तो इसमें अपनी सहायता की जो लिमिट है, उसको बढ़ाया भी है। पंजाब में तो इसमें अब लगभग किसानों को 90 प्रतिशत सहायता दी जा रही है।

**श्री रामदास अठावले :** सभापति महोदय, यह योजना 2005-2006 से शुरू हुई है और पंजाब में तो 90 प्रतिशत तक किसानों की मदद हो गई है, लेकिन सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र में अब तक कितने किसानों को कितनी सहायता, कितने हेक्टेयर्स के लिए दी है? पूरे देश भर में इस योजना में आपने कुल कितना पैसा खर्च किया है? आप तो अभी दो महीने ही इधर आए हैं, लेकिन इन दो महीनों में आपने इस योजना के लिए देश को कितना दे दिया है?

**श्री राधा मोहन सिंह :** महोदय, इस प्रश्न का सीधा संबंध पंजाब से है, फिर भी महाराष्ट्र के संदर्भ में मैं इतना बताऊंगा कि महाराष्ट्र की सरकार को हम 35 परसेंट स्माल फार्मर्स के लिए देते हैं और 25 परसेंट जनरल के लिए देते हैं। इसके अलावा महाराष्ट्र सरकार अपनी ओर एस.सी./एस.टी. को 20 परसेंट और जनरल को भी 20 परसेंट राजसहायता, जो 10 प्रतिशत अनिवार्य है, उसके अलावा कर रही है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 445. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** सर, मैंने कितनी बार हाथ उठाया, मुझे भी पूछना है।

**श्री सभापति :** आपका तो सवाल ही था। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

**श्री बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** सर, अभी इसमें कितनी सप्लीमेंटरी हुई हैं? इंपोर्टेंट प्वाइंट तो वहीं था, जिसका मुझे पता करना था।

MR. CHAIRMAN : See, I have to rotate. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**Cotton production in Vidarbha**

\*445. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has advised the farmers in Vidarbha region to desist from sowing of Bt. Cotton due to deficient rainfall in this season;
- (b) if so, the expected decline in cotton production as a result of following this advisory;
- (c) what alternatives have been suggested by Government; and
- (d) whether these alternatives would cause a decline in the cotton farmers' income?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (d) In view of forecast for South West monsoon, the Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur advised that dry seeding of varieties can be taken up during 16 to 20 June, 2014 for non Bt. cotton. For Bt. cotton, sowing should be done only after receipt of about 75-100 mm rainfall. After receipt of about 75-100 mm rainfall, intercropping of mung, urd, bean and short duration soyabean was recommended to avoid risk.

Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has received 411.7 mm rainfall against the normal of 515.7 mm during the period from 1.6.2014 to 3.8.2014. Delay in onset of monsoon initially resulted in slow area coverage under cotton in Vidarbha. However, area coverage subsequently improved with increased rainfall in the region. The area sown under cotton in Vidarbha region was 12.81 lakh hectares as on 28.7.2014 against the area of 12.30 lakh hectare sown up to the corresponding date last year. Sowing of cotton is still continuing. It is expected that production of cotton in Vidarbha region would be close to normal provided rains during remaining kharif season is normal and well distributed.

SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the farmers are expected to make up these losses. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how the farmers are expected to make up these losses in income. Is the Central Government planning to provide any financial assistance to make good for the decline in farmers' income and ensure that investment in agriculture for the next season is not adversely affected?