

(e) the details of extent of funding that will be given to the State to implement this Advisory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) Diversification of crops is taken up under wells/pore wells areas in place of paddy to crops like maize, jowar, pulses, groundnut and sesamum.

(e) Question does not arise.

Crop diversification project of Maharashtra

3354. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a crop diversification project, in view of droughts and crop failures, year after year for 3-4 consecutive years, and the distress sales and suicides resorted to by farmers;

(b) if so, the salient features of the crop diversification plan; and

(c) the Central Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has not submitted proposal on crop diversification to Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system

3355. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate total irrigated area under drip and sprinkler system and the steps being taken to increase it;

(b) the benefits of this system; and

(c) the States where this modern irrigation is more popular and the details of work being done to take it to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) An approximate area of 23 lakh ha. has been covered under drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, has formulated a Central Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan with the objectives of increasing the coverage of area under drip and sprinkler irrigation in the country.

(b) The benefits of drip and sprinkler irrigation system are:

- Water saving up to 40—80 percent as compared to conventional mode of irrigation.
- Yield increase 60—100 per cent.
- Improved quality of produce
- Higher returns per unit area & time
- Irrigation in undulating land possible
- Avoids water logging
- Saving in fertilizers & chemicals (40—60 per cent) usage, resulting in cost saving.
- Increased pest control management/efficacy
- Saves land as no bounds etc. are required.

(c) The modern technology of irrigation involving drip and sprinkler irrigation system is popular in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

As already mentioned in the part (a) of the Question, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation has been formulated to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan in all the States and Union Territories.