

Implementation of NFSM-Rice in Tamil Nadu

*330. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Rice in the State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether ensuring availability of water for irrigation of crops is also one of the mandate under this Mission; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate water supply including the release of Cauvery water to delta area in the State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is implementing National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Rice in Tamil Nadu in eight (8) districts namely, Pudukottai, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore.

(b) Ensuring availability of water for irrigation of crops is not the mandate of NFSM. However, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has mandate to improve availability of water for irrigation of crops through Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) and Per Drop More Crop (PDMC).

The mandate of NFSM is to increase the production and productivity of foodgrain crops including rice. The various interventions such as cluster demonstrations on direct seeded rice, line transplanting, promotion of stress tolerant varieties etc., distribution of quality seeds of high yielding varieties and hybrids, micro-nutrients, soil ameliorants, plant protection chemicals are being taken to increase rice productivity. Besides, farm machinery and implements and irrigation devices are also being promoted.

(c) The Government has made earnest efforts for the release of Cauvery water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu by abiding with the orders of Supreme Court of India. As a result, water storage in Mettur Dam improved significantly enabling to open the Dam on 20.09.2016. Besides, various steps like de-silting the irrigation channels by mobilizing requisite machinery, effective utilization of released water by meticulously formulating an integrated systematic plan and comprehensive micro-level planning at mini ayacut/sub-basin level to bring maximum area under irrigation by efficiently correlating the water release helped in supply of water to the delta region of Tamil Nadu.
