

efficiency and judicious use of irrigation water, incentives are given for water saving devices like sprinklers, drip, raingun etc. besides promotion of resource conservation technologies under the Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) (per drop more crop) etc.

The cropping pattern is dependent on various factors viz. agro- climatic condition of the region, availability of resources like land & water, market forces, socio-economic condition of the farmers and change as per the available resources. Accordingly, Government of India has been emphasizing promotion of various cropping system under crop development programmes.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare supplement the efforts of the states to diversify agricultural/horticultural crops as per the local need through various schemes viz. National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and OilPalm (NMOOP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVYV Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)/ National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)/Rainfed Area Development (RAD) etc.

The farmers are encouraged to use available resources like land and water judiciously. The new technologies on cropping pattern are demonstrated at the farmers fields through State Department of Agriculture/Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICARVState Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc.

Drought declaration in Bihar

†2738. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar, where paddy is the main crop grown in July requires 6 to 12 inch water level in farm, is facing drought situation due to non-occurrence of rain fall in the month; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has any plan to solve the crisis by declaring the State as drought affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT): (a) and (b) In the eventuality of notified calamities like drought, State Government is empowered to undertake necessary relief measures from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), which is readily available

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

with the State. For calamity of severe nature, additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in accordance with items and norms of assistance, upon receipt of Memorandum from the State Government. Declaration of Drought in the State is the responsibility of the respective State Government. During 2018-19, the State Government of Bihar has not reported drought in any part of the State so far.

Cage farming in Karnataka

2739. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has launched cage farming project in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said cage farming units will be set up in Karnataka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries approved by the Government in December 2015 inter-alia provides financial assistance for (i) open sea cage culture and (ii) installation of cages/pens in reservoirs and other open water bodies. Under the CSS, the unit cost of open sea cage is fixed at ₹5 lakh per cage and having minimum diameter of 6 m and depth of 4 m in case of each circular cage and 96 cubic meter volume (6mx4mx4m) in case of each rectangular cage. Similarly, the unit cost for installation of cages/pens in reservoirs and other open water bodies is fixed at ₹ 3 lakh per cage including installation and inputs for first crop.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka reported the installation of 8 marine cages with an expenditure of ₹ 29.9 lakh for Seabass and Cobia culture and a total of 102 cages in reservoir with an expenditure of ₹81 lakh. Besides, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad has also sanctioned 500 brackish-water cages to the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) for installation in the selected District of Karnataka.