

Promoting less water consuming crops

1339. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote agricultural crops based not just on productivity per hectare but on productivity per unit of water consumed to solve the water dispute in the country; and

(b) whether any amount of money has been earmarked in the Tenth Five Year Plan for the promotion, research and extension of less water consumption crops in the country; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is focusing its research efforts on improving water productivity with the adoption of improved irrigation schedule for rice-wheat system as well as oilseed/pulse based low water requirement crops in the Xth Five Year Plan. Funds required for these efforts are met from the overall allocation of the schemes.

Low water consuming crops are promoted particularly in vulnerable areas alongwith introduction of a large number of varieties of drought resistant and early maturing crops under crop diversification.

Increasing sugarcane cultivation area

1340. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to increase the area of cultivation of sugarcane in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed financial allocation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.