

CRIDA: HYDERABAD

Date: 21.04.2015

Answer to the question for the Lok Sabha - Dy. No. 24770 raised by Shri Abhishek Singh

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- a) **Whether the Government has identified rainshadow areas in the country, if so the details thereof, state-wise;**

The following are important rain shadow areas in the country:

Thar Desert in Rajasthan, parts of Gujarat, Northern parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Lahul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh, Northern Karnataka, Central Maharashtra (Osmanabad, Beed, Solapur and Vidharbha Regions), Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, Coimbatore and Tuticorin etc. in Tamil Nadu and Palakkad in Kerala.

- b) **Whether watersheds projects are under implementation for sustainable development of such areas for agricultural purpose in the country;**

An inter-institutional research and development project titled "**Collection and Evaluation of Germplasm, Standardization of Agro techniques and pilot demonstrations for *Jatropha curcas* L., in Rain Shadow Districts of Andhra Pradesh**" sponsored by Rain Shadow Area Development Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh was initiated during 2005-06 with ANGRAU, CRIDA, ICRISAT, DOR, NBPGR and IICT as collaborating institutes.

- c) **if so, the details thereof;**

Under this project research and development activities viz., Germplasm collection and evaluation, development of agro techniques, tissue culture protocols for mass multiplication, oil extraction, conversion techniques and large scale demonstrations in the farmers fields in eight different districts (Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam, Kurnool, Kadapa, Medak, Anantapur and Mahabubnagar) of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh were carried out.

In another research project carried out by ICAR-CRIDA, the surplus runoff potential available for rainwater harvesting in the Amistapur micro-watershed in Boothpur Mandal of Mahabubnagar District, a rain shadow region have been estimated. The

potential locations for constructing various *in situ* and *ex situ* soil and water conservation interventions have been identified for the sustainable management.

d) The assistance provided/proposed to be provided by the Government to grow crops which suite the climate of the rainshadow areas in the country;

ICAR-CRIDA under All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA) has developed doable rainfed technologies for some of the rain shadow areas viz. scarce rainfall zone (Rayalaseema) of Andhra Pradesh and southern dry zone of Karnataka. The technologies include risk resilient and productive intercropping systems, *in situ* moisture conservation practices including conservation furrow, ridges and furrows, mulching techniques etc., rainwater harvesting methods for higher water productivity, popularization of cost effective and energy efficient implements such as Ananta planter, bullock drawn seed drill, weeders etc. for timely agricultural operations.