

Reply to the calling attention motion , called by Hon. MLA Ramakrishna Dhavalikar.

CALLING ATTENTION MOTION.

Fear and apprehension among the agriculturist due to non- maintenance and construction of Bund by the Government for promoting agriculture in the State of Goa on account of which our young youth and age old agriculturist shy away from carrying out the business and measures government intend to take in this regards.

The low-lying agriculture land normally below the high tide level, which are locally known as Khazan lands, are protected from entry of tidal water by *an earthen bund and sluice gate system commonly known as **protective bunds***.

This unique system of reclamation and development of the agricultural land is known to have been evolved centuries ago as early as 400A.D. The State of Goa has more than 1200 kms. of protective bunds, protecting about 13,000 ha of agriculture land.

In the early days i.e. before liberation the entire system of protective bunds was maintained by the farmers themselves, initially through Gaonkari system thereafter by the Comunidade.

After liberation, Goa Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964 was enacted on 16/12/1964 , after which the Comunidade was relieved from the duties of management of the khazan lands and the same was handed over to Tenants Association.

The protective bunds wherever tenants association have been formed have been notified under the Goa Agriculture Tenancy Act, 1964. The repairs to the bunds are now the responsibility of Tenants Association. The Govt contributes 50% of the evaluated cost to carry out such repairs by the tenant association.

In case the work is large and cannot be implemented through the tenant association, it is taken by the Engineering Division under the Department of Agriculture named as Soil Conservation Division, who implement the repairs and maintenance of the bunds through various schemes of the Govt.

If the work is technically intercalate and further large in nature, the same is implemented by Department of Water Resource under the flood control and Anti erosion schemes.

All the repairs are put up for approval of the government, on the recommendations/directions from the Mamlatdar of the respective Talukas or on instructions of the Govt. Since the year, 2003-04 the Government has implemented 73 projects of maintenance and repairs of the bunds, protecting a length of 70.40 Kms defending 5000 ha. of agricultural fields.

In the last two financial years the government has taken up 17 Nos of bunds protecting 1452 ha. During the financial year 2021-22, the department has planned to implement 17 works in various Talukas,

Taluka	Works	Cost in Cr	Length to be protected in mts
Ponda	1.0	4.13	960 mts
Bicholim	5.0	22.90	5800 mts
Tiswadi	6.0	17.84	5760mts
Salcete	1.0	9.98	5000 mts
Bardez	4.0	9.71	5000 mts
Total	17.00 Nos	Rs 64.56 CR	22,520 mts Or 22.52 Kms

Apart from the above , Government has also moved the proposal to Ministry of Agriculture , Government of India for support funding of Rs 283.00 Cr under the scheme of Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yogana for strengthening and repairs of 42 bunds of 80.74 kms length protecting 4185 Ha. khazan lands.

The Hon Members be rest assured, that the Government is taking all the possible steps to ensure timely maintenance and repairs of the protective bunds.

The young youth and age old agriculturist should and will not shy away, from taking up agriculture as profession. The Government is always and will continue to provide pro -active support to the farmers for agriculture development.

The government will support the farmers in not only repairing the bunds but also by providing other supports right from land preparation and up to the stage of marketing.

Government will act as backbone, for the economic and social upliftment of the farmer and to ensure and strive hard to make the dream come true of Hon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, to double the famer income in by the year 2022.