

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/03/2022

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

2575. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that climate change is placing strain on the land and natural resources that farmers rely on;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that some 30 per cent of land is experiencing degradation and rising temperature means agriculture needs more water; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government is taking in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR).

(a to d) Indian Agriculture is vulnerable to climate change with 51 per cent cultivated area under rainfed conditions. According to estimates of the Space Application Centre (SAC), ISRO in 2016, 96.4 million ha area is under land degradation. Climate change induced rising temperature will increase evapotranspiration and as a result crop water demand and irrigation water requirement will increase.

The government is taking steps to deal with climate change as under- through the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. NMSA was approved for three major components *i.e.* Rainfed Area Development (RAD); On Farm Water Management (OFWM); and Soil Health Management (SHM). Subsequently, four new programmes were introduced namely Soil Health Card (SHC), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and Sub Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF). During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was operationalised wherein the OFWM component of NMSA was subsumed under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of PMKSY. In addition to aforementioned programmes under NMSA, Restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched in April 2018.

Further in order to address the emerging scenario, ICAR has launched a flagship project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture in 2011 to conduct basic and strategic research besides demonstrating resilient technologies in 151 vulnerable districts. ICAR developed 8 climate resilient varieties and evaluated about 170 crop varieties under extreme weather conditions. Agriculture Contingency Plans have been developed for 650 districts.
