

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 323
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH DECEMBER, 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE RELATED HUNGER CRISIS

323. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:
DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:
SHRI KUMBAKUDI SUDHAKARAN:
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR:
SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the climate change-related hunger crisis in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the climate crisis, extreme weather, irregular rainfall and drought has led to decline in foodgrains production and increased structural rural poverty;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a major proportion of the population is facing food insecurity in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to provide food and financial security to the affected people, at present and in the future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि और किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Presently there is no specific information available on climate hunger crisis in the country. Climate change events like extreme weather, irregular rainfall and drought, are known to have impact on food grains production. To deal with the impact of climate change in food grains production, the Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). NMSA is one of the Missions

within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate and to sustain food grains production. NMSA was approved for three major components i.e. Rainfed Area Development (RAD); On Farm Water Management (OFWM); and Soil Health Management (SHM). Subsequently, new programmes such as namely Soil Health Card (SHC), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Per Drop More Crop, National Bamboo Mission (NBM) etc. were also included. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) scheme is being implemented in all the 28 States and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with the objectives of increasing foodgrains production through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner, restoring soil fertility and productivity at the individual farm level and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence amongst the farmers.

To address the impact of climate change, the National Agricultural Research System (NRSA) under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has released 2279 high yielding varieties / hybrids of field crops for different agro-climatic conditions during 2014-15 to 2022-23, out of which 1888 varieties are biotic and abiotic stress tolerant, and 217 are less water requiring / drought/ heat /moisture stress tolerant.

Although climate change is understood to have its negative impact on food crops, through the help of technology, the negative impacts have been dealt with effectively. With the Government interventions, the food grains production has continuously increased in the country during last 5 years despite the impact of climate change which can be seen in the below table.

(In million tonnes)

| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Production of food grains | 297.50 | 310.74 | 315.72 | 329.68 | 332.07 (Target, as per 1st Advance estimate) |

(c) & (d): Government enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 which provides food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access

to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of up to 75% of the rural and up to 50% of the urban population, i.e. about two-thirds of the total population of the country, for receiving food grains at prices specified in Schedule-I prices of the Act, which at Census 2011 comes to 81.35 crore persons. The Coverage under the Act is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit. The Act is being successfully implemented in all the States/UTs and at present, against the intended coverage of 81.35 crore, the States/UTs have identified 80.24 crore persons.
