

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Environment Fragility in Kerala

154. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a scientific study concerning the environmental degradation and fragility of the State of Kerala's environment resulting in incessant flash floods, landslides and silting of top soil causing increased vulnerability of soil and making it fragile;
- (b) if so, the detail of steps being undertaken to address the environmental crisis that is persisting in the said State;
- (c) whether the Government is further aware of the increase in water logging in many parts of Kuttanad taluk in the State making tracts of cultivable land unusable;
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to assist the State in mitigating this issue; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated, if any, for the management of climate change related damages and loss of livelihood till date?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the information received from the Government of Kerala, no specific scientific study has been conducted concerning the environmental degradation and fragility of the State of Kerala's environment, resulting in incessant flash floods, landslides and silting of top soil, causing increased vulnerability of the soil and making it fragile. However, as part of the revised State Action Plan on Climate Change 2023-2030 (SAPCC 2023-2030), composite climate change vulnerability profiles were developed for the State and sector-specific vulnerabilities were assessed to measure systemic preparedness.

(b) In response to the increasing frequency of climate change induced natural calamities, the Government of Kerala in the SAPCC 2023-2030 has envisaged various programs and projects aimed at environmental conservation and disaster risk reduction. These efforts include afforestation projects, watershed management, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health etc. The plan envisages extensive interventions focused on climate change adaptation strategies. The plan aims to enhance the state's resilience to natural disasters and improve disaster response systems based on detailed studies.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Kerala is aware of the water logging issues in Kuttanad Taluk and the same is being addressed by State Departments such as Irrigation, Agriculture, etc.

(e) Under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change (NAFCC), a project “Promotion of Integrated Farming System of Kaipad and Pokkali in Costal Wetlands of Kerala” was implemented with a sanctioned amount of Rs.25 crore. The project was executed by the Agency for Development of Aquaculture, Kerala (ADAK), with NABARD being the National Implementing Entity (NIE). The project was initiated on 31st December, 2015 and got completed by 21st October 2021. In addition to this, a project entitled “Climate Change, floods and rural farming communities in Kuttanad: A shift from disaster Management towards disaster preparedness” was sanctioned by the Government of Kerala for a period of 3 years under the State plan scheme ‘Climate Change’ with a project outlay of Rs.17.17 Lakhs.
