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Title: Regarding impact of climate change on agriculture.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (SULTANPUR): Madam, my intervention is regarding the broader pattern of changing climatic conditions in our country and its detrimental effect on agriculture. This is the only problem in our country we face which has a non-negotiable time limit. The Council of Energy Environment and Water has reported that in the last ten years we have had a one degree increase in the Annual Mean Air Temperature and almost two degrees increase in night time temperature which is a frightening development. The severe impact on agriculture we can see, which is already reeling under the pressure being unsustainable.

CSE Reports state that ten million tonnes of the Rabi crop have been destroyed last year valued at Rs. 20,000 crore due to the unseasonal rainfall in February to April last year and the hailstorms. The Kharif crop, which was in winter, as in Punjab and Haryana has caused a loss of more than Rs. 5,000 per acre and the crops of Bajra, Guar and Moong have failed in more than ten lakh acres because of rising temperatures in the winter season. This is undoing the benefits of the Green Revolution. Just to contextualize it, if there is one degree increase in Annual Mean Air Temperature now, it will cause a 17 per cent decrease in rice production in the country.

Madam, there is a welcome step by the Government to develop contingency crop plans based on projected climatic conditions for 126 agro-ecological zones in the country. However, my suggestion is the following. Instead of having contingency plans, what we really need to do is to bring changes in patterns of agriculture and we can use automatic weather centres for this which provide local weather data before the start of the cropping season to decide which crops to sow.

The second example is the example of Maharashtra where a higher MSP for sugarcane unlike other crops is the reason that despite being water scarce, four per cent of landmass has sugarcane in it and it uses 71 per cent of irrigated water which does not make any sense to any reasonable person.

My only suggestion is an overhauling of the subsidy structure regarding things like this taking into account the agro-climatic need of the crop because this is really something that the Government and the farmers need to start working on. Otherwise, half of our land is going to be arid and non-arable in no time to come. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Shivkumar Udasi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is the question of SDG also. We will have to be specific.