

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 271
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 2019

ASSISTANCE TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

271. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to help farmers from the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur in coping with changing climate which has resulted in decline in traditional crops like Orange, Cardamom and Ginger;
- (b) the details of capacity building, training on modern farming practices and techniques, and support for modern technology granted to the farmers in North Bengal; and
- (c) the funds allocated towards developing cold storage and agriculture marketing infrastructure in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur?:

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The Department is taking many steps to promote climate resilient agriculture practices which help to maintain a consistent agriculture production in a sustainable manner. One such initiative is Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that is implemented in the Country including West Bengal for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew and cocoa.

The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting material, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including in-situ generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables.

Contd....2/-

Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY-PDMC) mainly focusing on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation) is implemented in the country including West Bengal.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship network project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) in 2011 to meet the challenges of sustaining domestic food production in the face of changing climate.

Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians are also provided for adopting improved technologies. Scheme also envisages creation of post harvest management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce. Under protected cultivation component of MIDH, assistance is provided for creation of polyhouses which protects the plants from adverse climatic conditions and provides an appropriate amount of light, temperature, humidity, carbon-dioxide etc. to achieve optimum yield with excellent quality.

The Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) of NICRA has been taken up in two districts, viz., Coochbehar and Malda districts located in northern region of West Bengal. As part of TDC of NICRA, capacity building on modern farming practices and techniques has been taken up. About 157 training programs were taken up involving 3880 farmers in the district of Cooch Behar and 43 training programs involving 969 farmers were taken up in the district of Malda.

(c): During 2019-20, an amount of Rs. 4400.00 Lakhs (Gol Share) has been allocated to State Horticulture Mission, West Bengal under NHM scheme of MIDH for carrying out activities related to horticulture development including activities related to capacity building, training, cold storage and market infrastructures.
