

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1146
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/12/2022

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON LAND DEGRADATION

1146. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken or plans to undertake comprehensive studies to predict the impact of climate change on land degradation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;
- (b) the targets set and achievements made so far with regard to the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), State-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken as part of NMSA's towards the fulfilment of National and International commitments on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): Government has undertaken several studies on the impact of climate change on land degradation. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) to study and conduct basic and strategic research besides demonstrating resilient technologies to combat climate change in agriculture. Under NICRA integrated simulation modelling studies have been undertaken to predict the impact of climate change on land degradation. The Government of India has launched several schemes/ programmes which include inter-alia the National Afforestation Program, Green India Mission, Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) which contribute to restoration of land which, in turn, helps in livelihood security. Afforestation and tree plantation activities in the country are undertaken as a cross sectoral and multi-departmental activity under various schemes of different Ministries. National Mission for a Green India is one of the ongoing eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by means of plantation activities in forest and non-forest areas. As one of the measures to increase and improve forest area in the country, National Afforestation and Eco-development

Board (NAEB) is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for ecological restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation.

(b): National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (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 increase in production. Agriculture is a State subject. Accordingly, the Central Government supports the States in taking steps on promoting sustainable agriculture as envisages in NMSA.

(c): The Government, under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has taken several initiatives that comply with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The promotion of Natural Farming and Organic Farming through the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) has been done by combining traditional and modern knowledge and has the potential to contribute towards climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation related to SDG-1, SDG-2 and SDG-12 related to no poverty, zero hunger and responsible consumption and production goals respectively. The Soil Health Management (SHM) intervention focuses on limiting the use of chemical fertilizers through the use of soil health cards (a sub scheme under SHM), while also promoting the use of bio-fertilizers, manures and organic fertilizers to enhance and restore soil health, thereby contributing to improved soil health. Such schemes focus on protection, restoration and promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial resources like land, halt and reverse land degradation with improved life on land as given in SDG-15. Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project is working to enhance resilience of the agriculture sector to climate vulnerabilities and risks through strategic research and technology demonstrations which addresses the SDG-13 goals for climate action.
