

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 362
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09/12/2022

FARMING ON MOUNTAINS AND PLATEAUS BY TRIBALS

362. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- (a) whether nature of farming in mountains and plateaus by farmers, predominantly tribals, is different from plain areas;
- (b) whether it is difficult and laborious with lower output;
- (c) if so, total area of such farming across the country;
- (d) when was last survey conducted in this regard;
- (e) whether Government would consider to do survey to update it and also understand the difficulties due to changing climate and changed farming techniques; and
- (f) if so, whether Government would form a board to monitor their state of affairs and provide help of such farmers?

ANSWER

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

(a & b) Yes, the nature of farming in mountain and plateau areas is different from farming in the plain areas. In mountain and plateau areas monocropping is practiced which is complex and risk prone besides more laborious with low productivity. However, crop diversity is more especially in these areas.

(c to d) The total area under mountains and plateau farming is 19,03,063 ha in the country. The last survey in this regard was conducted by Soil & Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) under the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the year 2021.

(e & f) To deal with Climate Change, the Government of India is taking several steps. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the Missions within the

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The mission aims to evolve and implement strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate. NMSA was approved for three major components i.e. Rainfed Area Development (RAD); On Farm Water Management (OFWM); and Soil Health Management (SHM). Subsequently, four new programmes were introduced namely Soil Health Card (SHC), Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was operationalised wherein the OFWM component of NMSA was subsumed under Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of PMKSY. In addition to the aforementioned programmes under NMSA, the Restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched in April 2018. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also launched a flagship network project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' (NICRA) which aims to develop and promote climate resilient technologies for the regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc., to cope with such extremes.
