

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 856
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

Effect of climate change on poor and women

856. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that climate change affects the poor and women the most, if so, the details thereof, especially in the context of India; and
- (b) the efforts made by Government to help and prevent these vulnerable groups from getting adversely affected from climate change?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) As per the Working Group II Report “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability” to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adverse impacts of climate change on food systems and water sector affect the whole community, but the vulnerable groups including women and low-income households are impacted more. As per the ‘Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework’ by Department of Science and Technology (2019-2020), women are known to be more sensitive to climate risks. The Third Biennial Update Report (BUR) submitted by India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in February 2021 recognizes the economic impacts of extreme events on the poor and the role of a protective social safety net.

(b) The Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which is the overarching climate change policy framework. The NAPCC is guided by the principle of protecting the poor and the vulnerable sections of society through an inclusive and sustainable development strategy. According to India’s Third BUR submitted to the UNFCCC in February 2021, India has undertaken gender mainstreaming in climate programmes by incorporating gender considerations in the NAPCC, also thereby translating the gender considerations into the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). India’s Third BUR specifically mentions programmes to improve sanitation and water supply to millions of households and improve the health of women by the provision of clean cooking fuel to substitute traditional biomass burning, like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) and Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and Swachh Bharat Mission. Further, over the years, India has been implementing a number of schemes and programmes mainstreaming climate change and gender, and empowering poor, such as, (i) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (ii) Jal Jeevan Mission (iii) Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (iv) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (v) POSHAN Abhiyaan (vi) National Health Mission (vii) Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (viii) Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (ix) Mahila Shakti Kendra (x) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (xi) National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and (xii) Antyodaya Anna Yojana. These schemes are supporting access to drinking water, clean energy, elementary education, employment and livelihood, housing, sanitation, nutrition, health and financial inclusion of women. In addition, one-third reservations for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) support women's participation in local governance in India.
