

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FARMERS IN PUNJAB

2424. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that climate change is leading to drought and desertification in various parts of Punjab leading to farmers' distress;
- (b) if so, whether any action is being considered to provide assistance to such farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to promote sustainable agriculture in Punjab and to provide assistance to the State Government for this purpose?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Yes, the Government is aware of the fact that climate change is leading to drought and desertification, which contribute to farmers' distress in the country including Punjab. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a project, National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) that studies the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries. It also develops and promotes climate resilient technologies, which helps the regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. ICAR through its NICRA project creates awareness about impact of climate change among farmers. Capacity building programmes are conducted to educate the farmers on various aspects of climate change for wider adoption of climate resilient technologies. There is no state-wise budget allocation under NICRA. Location specific climate resilient technologies have been demonstrated in the clusters comprising 3 to 4 villages in each climatically vulnerable districts of Punjab (Faridkot, Bathinda, Gurdaspur and Moga) selected by Krishi Vigyan Kendras for adoption through participatory approach. Capacity building programs are conducted for enhancing the adaptive capacity, resilience against climatic variability, and to evolve innovative institutional mechanisms at village level to enable the communities to adapt to climate change.

Further, National Agricultural Research System (NARS) under the aegis of ICAR has released a total of 2900 varieties during last 10 years (2014- 2024). Out of which, 2661 varieties are tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses.
