

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 507
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2025

**PROMOTING CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS AMONG VILLAGE
PANCHAYATS AND SARPANCHS**

507. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to introduce a ranking system to recognize villages adopting the best climate-resilient practices, if so, the details thereof?
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken initiatives to raise awareness among Village panchayats and sarpanchs about the impact of climate change on agriculture and the adoption of climate-resilient practices;
- (c) the details of training workshops, including their frequency, to educate Village Panchayats on climate adaptation strategies; and
- (d) the steps being taken to disseminate climate change-related messages in Hindi, English, and vernacular languages, particularly in remote and border areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Presently, there is no such plan to introduce ranking system to recognize villages adopting the best climate resilient practices. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a network project National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) which conducts studies on the impact of climate change on agriculture and promotes climate resilient technologies in agriculture for vulnerable areas. Risk and vulnerability assessment of agriculture to climate change has been carried out at district-level for 651 predominantly agricultural districts as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change protocols. Out of 310 districts identified as vulnerable, 109 districts have been categorized as 'very high' and 201 districts as 'highly' vulnerable. District Agriculture Contingency Plans for these 651 districts have also been prepared to address weather aberrations and recommend location specific climate resilient crops and management practices. For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers to climate variability, the Concept of "Climate Resilient Villages" (CRVs) has been initiated under NICRA. Location-specific climate resilient technologies have been demonstrated in 448 CRVs of 151 climatically vulnerable districts covering 28 states / UTs for adoption by farmers. ICAR through its NICRA project, creates

awareness about impact of climate change in agriculture. Capacity building programmes are being conducted to educate the farmers on various aspects of climate change for wider adoption of climate resilient technologies.

The Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), implements a Panchayat-level weather forecasting service which provides localized and timely weather information to nearly 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats (GPs). The service offers daily and hourly forecasts for the next five days, encompassing crucial parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed, wind direction, and cloud cover. This empowers farmers to make informed decisions regarding planting, irrigation, harvesting, and crop protection, leading to improved agricultural outcomes and yields. To ensure effective utilization of these tools, a training workshop are conducted. Each year, GPs take “Sankalp” to take up activities within Sustainable Development Goals. The "Green Village" initiative promotes ecological, economic, and equitable development through community participation in activities such as tree plantation, organic farming, and promoting renewable energy sources. The revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) facilitates capacity building for elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). In FY 2024-25, the MoPR trained approximately 73,136 elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries under Theme 5 – "Clean and Green."

To mitigate the impacts of adverse weather on agriculture, under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) scheme, medium range weather forecast for next 5 days at district and block are generated by IMD. Based on rainfall and other weather parameters along with weather forecasts issued by IMD, 130 Agromet Field Units prepare Agromet Advisories in English as well as in the regional language for dissemination through multiple channels. Also, farmers access weather information including alerts and related agromet advisories specific to their districts through the mobile App viz., ‘Meghdoot’ launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences which is available in English and 13 regional languages. These weather details are also accessible to farmers through ‘Mausam’ App of IMD. The Panchayat-level weather forecast information is accessible through multiple digital platforms, including: eGramSwaraj (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in/>), ‘Gram Manchitra’ Application of MoPR (<https://grammanchitra.gov.in/gm4MVC>), ‘Meri Panchayat’ Mobile App and Mausamgram web portal of IMD (<https://mausamgram.imd.gov.in/>)
