

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2123**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2023

**CLIMATIC RISK FACTORS**

2123. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is cognizant that most farms are rain-fed and exposed to climate risks and small and marginal farmers operate with big disadvantages in terms of scale, diversification of crops, potential price risks and bargaining power and an average farmer earns a little more than Rs. 10,000 per month (current prices) and nearly half of all farmers are estimated to be in debt; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps that have been taken and proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that nearly 70 percent of farming households in the country are small and marginal?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. With a view to address the issue of rainfed area, Government of India launched National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) focussing on Soil Health Management, Rainfed Area Development and On Farm Water Management. Further, Rainfed Area Development (RAD) focuses on Integrated Farming System (IFS) for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. Under this system, crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers not only in maximizing farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events. Government provides 50% subsidy under RAD to farmers for 2

ha area. Livestock rearing, fisheries, horticulture etc. are an important contributor to household income of farmers, especially of small and marginal farmers.

In addition, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) during 2015-16, with a view to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, sustainable water conservation practices. The Per Drop More Crop component of PMKSY now subsumed under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) promoting micro irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler) and provides 55% subsidy to small and marginal farmers and 45% to other farmers for enhancing water use efficiency and enhancing productivity by regular irrigation. Government of India is implementing several other schemes to help farmers including small and marginal farmers, for enhancing their income. Besides, Government of India provides Rs. 6000/- annually to all farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi directly to their account.

In order to address climatic vagaries faced by rainfed farmers, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India launched National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). To deal with climate change, climate resilient varieties for extreme weather conditions are developed and have been demonstrated through KVKs in 151 climatically risk-prone districts. Varieties and resilient intercropping systems performed better than traditional farmers' practices resulting in improved yields up to 18% in the adopted villages. Crop diversification from water-intensive paddy to alternative crops like pulses, oilseeds, maize, cotton and agroforestry plantation helped farmers in sustaining production. Climate resilient technologies have been developed and evaluated in farmers' fields for their adoption. Further, in order to ensure food and nutritional security of the resource poor marginal farmers, 64 integrated farming system models have been developed and are integrated in State Action Plans of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha and Jammu & Kashmir.

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