

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-4531
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2023

FOOD SECURITY OF THE NATION

4531. SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY:
SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI:

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

(a) the details regarding Government's strategy to tackle the food security issue in future considering India's prohibition of wheat shipments in May 2022 due to a threat to the food security of the nation, after a record-shattering heat wave damaged wheat yields in several States;

(b) whether the Government plans to provide any form of remuneration to the farmers whose wheat yields were affected;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government has undertaken any study to look for the ways to protect crops from unprecedented changes in rainfall patterns, droughts and extreme heat that are currently being experienced?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERSWELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): In order to ensure the food security of the country, the Government is taking various steps like procurement of foodgrains for Public Distribution System (PDS) operation, maintain buffer stock, modernization & upgradation of storage facilities etc. Further, the Government is implementing various schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card (SHC), National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PMKMY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Rainfed Area Development (RAD) Programme under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Scheme for promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), National Bee Keeping Honey Mission (NBHM), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) etc. for the wellbeing of farmers which provide assistance on production, protection, post harvest processing, value addition, market linkage etc. for foodgrain crops including wheat.

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is being implemented in all the 28 states and 2 Union Territories with the objective of enhancing foodgrain production including wheat. The NFSM-Wheat is being implemented in 10 States and 2 Union Territories viz; Jammu & Kashmir and Ladkha. The country's wheat production during 2022-23 is 112.18 million tonnes (as per 2nd Advance estimates) which is 4.44 million tonnes additional production over the previous year i.e., 2021-22.

Further, the ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR), Karnal is working on developing climate resilient varieties and also keeping strict vigil on disease situation in the country. During 2014 to 2023, a total of 156 wheat varieties have been released. The wheat varieties such as DBW303, DBW187 etc. have average yield of 8 tonnes per hectare. Further, 28 bio-fortified varieties of wheat have been developed by ICAR which are rich in multi-nutrients such as DBW327, DBW332, DDW47 etc.

The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking immediate measures in the wake of all natural calamities. To address the adverse effect of natural risks on crops, Government ensures comprehensive risk cover for crops of farmers against all non-preventable natural risks including heat waves, pest and diseases from pre-sowing to post harvest stage under the Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana (PMFBY) which is being implemented in the country from Kharif 2016. It is voluntary scheme for state and farmers.

To meet the challenges of sustaining domestic food production in the face of changing climate, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture which will address vulnerable areas of the country and the outputs of the project will help the districts and regions prone to extreme weather conditions like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. to cope with such extremes.
