

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1586
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER 2023

USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

1586. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL

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

- (a) whether the Government has any project to develop low-cost Modern Technologies to help farmers to face the extreme weather conditions, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the reasons for not implementing such technologies to enhance the efficiency & re-silence Agri-value chains and promote digitization of a catalyst for agriculture transformation;
- (c) whether the Government has prioritized areas of encouragement in diversification of agriculture, promotion of sustainable agriculture and channelling financial resources towards environmentally conscious and climate re-silient farming; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) & (b): Agriculture is a State subject. Government of India supports and facilitates the State Governments through many Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes to promote agriculture throughout the country and to help small and marginal farmers to gain access to modern agriculture technology. Government of India is consistently making efforts to overcome obsolete technology and introduce new technology in agriculture such as High Yielding Varieties (HYV) seeds, Agricultural Mechanization, Micro Irrigation etc. To meet the challenges of sustaining domestic food production in the face of changing climate, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a flagship network project namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA). The project aims studying at the impact of climate change on agriculture including crops, livestock, horticulture and fisheries and to develop and promote climate resilient technologies in agriculture for addressing vulnerable areas of the country prone to extreme weather conditions

like droughts, floods, frost, heat waves, etc. ICAR has released 2380 high yielding varieties / hybrids of field crops for different agro-climatic conditions during 2014-15 to 2022-23, out of which, 1888 are climate resilient varieties. Sixty-eight location-specific climate resilient technologies have also been developed and popularized for wider adoption among the farming communities in vulnerable districts. Agricultural contingency plans for 650 districts have been prepared and made available online for policy makers to take decisions in the event of delayed monsoons and other extreme weather events. Based on vulnerability assessment, climate resilient technologies are being demonstrated on farmer's fields in 151 clusters covering 446 villages.

(c) & (d): The use of modern technologies including kisan drones is promoted under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization. Under NeGPA program, funding is given to State Governments for Digital Agriculture Projects using emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IOT), Block chain etc. A component called "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY-RAFTAAR) in 2018-19 with the objective of promoting innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem. Under this programme, start-ups are encouraged to use innovative technologies to resolve challenges faced in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Government has also recently approved Central Sector Scheme for providing drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs). The scheme aims to provide drones to 15000 selected Women SHGs for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose (application of fertilizers and pesticides). Central Financial Assistance @ 80% of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges up to a maximum of Rs. 8.0 lakhs will be provided to the women SHGs for purchase of drones. The Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) of SHGs may raise the balance amount (total cost of procurement minus subsidy) as loan under National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF).

Further, the Government has been implementing a Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) in rice-wheat growing areas under RKVY since 2013-14 to divert the area under water guzzling rice to alternate crops like pulses, oilseeds, coarse cereals, nutri-cereals, cotton and agro-forestry.

To deal with the impact of climate change in food grains production, the Government is implementing National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). NMSA is one of the Missions within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which aims of evolving and implementing strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to the changing climate and to sustain food grains production.
