GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**LOK SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 510**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH FEBRUARY, 2024

**CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

510. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:
SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

(a) whether the Government agrees with the view that policymakers, agri-scientists and farmers must come together to confront the challenge of climate change;

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in mind that adaptation actions are needed to respond to climate change as these actions help reduce vulnerabilities and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government agrees with the view that Climate Change has a profound influence on crop health;

(d) if so, the details of the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that crop health, which has become an important determinant of our food security, encompasses the wellbeing of each and every component associated with the production landscape, starting from water, soil, climate, crop and environment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b):** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project brings the policymakers, agri-scientists and farmers together to confront the climate change challenge.

Government of India through National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), and its three major components viz., Rainfed Area Development (RAD); On Farm Water Management (OFWM); and Soil Health Management (SHM) responds to climate vulnerabilities. Climate risk and vulnerability assessment carried out in NICRA indicates that a total of 109 districts are very highly vulnerable and 201 districts are highly vulnerable to climate change. Adaptation efforts have been undertaken in very high and highly vulnerable districts.

**(c) & (d):** Yes, Sir. National Agricultural Research System under the aegis of ICAR has developed 2380 varieties of different field crops of which 1971 are climate resilient with tolerance to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses. Among these 2380 field crop varieties, 429 are more resilient and are highly tolerant to the impact to global warming and erratic weather conditions and therefore resistant, tolerant to drought, water stress, flood, submergence condition, salinity condition, high temperature, cold, frost etc.

To mitigate weather related challenges in the country, the Government of India implements the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Four new programmes were introduced under the ambit of NMSA namely Soil Health Card (SHC), Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), Mission Organic Value Chain Development in North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) and Sub Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF). During 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was operationalized. All these programmes focus on soil, water, crop and environment to ensure food security and maintain sustainability.

Government of India has implemented the District Agricultural Contingency Plan (DACP) prepared for 650 Districts of the country and recommends location specific climate resilient crops and varieties and management practices for use by farmers. These agricultural contingency plans cover weather aberrations like drought in rainfed areas (delay in monsoon onset, breaks in monsoon leading to early, mid and late-season droughts), drought in irrigated areas (delayed or limited release of water for irrigation), floods, unseasonal rains and extreme weather events such as heat wave, cold wave, frost, hailstorm, cyclone etc.

**(e):** Does not arise.

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