

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 50
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

Impact of climate change in India

50. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the report published by the Bonn based environmental think tank Germanwatch, which claims that India is among the top ten most affected countries in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021;
- (b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that majority of the Indian population is dependent on agriculture, which is being severely affected by the impact of climate change; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard its people against the impact of climate change?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) Several reports on different aspects of climate change are published the world over by different agencies from time to time. One such report is 'Global Climate Risk Index 2021' by Germanwatch, a Non-Governmental Organisation based in Germany.

(b) and (c) According to the 2011 Census, 54.6 per cent of India's total workforce is engaged in agriculture. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted climate change impact analysis and its effect on the agriculture sector under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project. Variable impact of climate change has been projected on the production of certain crops like rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, chickpea and potato. Under NICRA, attempts are being made to develop heat & drought tolerant wheat, flood-tolerant rice, drought-tolerant pulses, waterlogging and high-temperature tolerant tomato, etc.

The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) focuses on the agriculture sector with objectives including resource conservation, restoration of soil fertility and productivity focusing on integrated farming, water use efficiency and soil health management especially in rainfed agriculture areas and contributes to co-benefits of mitigation. Thirty-three States/Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change in line with NAPCC, which outlines sector-specific and cross-sectoral priority actions.

Climate Change is a global collective action problem and requires the cooperation of all nations based on the principle of 'Equity' and in accordance with 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities'. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Paris Agreement (PA).

India submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to UNFCCC in 2015 which inter-alia includes reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level; to achieve about 40 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030 with the help of the transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF); and to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Climate actions in India are being steered under the overarching framework of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It comprises eight missions in specific areas of solar, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, Himalayan ecosystem, green India, sustainable agriculture, and strategic knowledge for climate change.
