

Measures to reduce land degradation

2263. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

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SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government has taken any action to reduce the land degradation, extreme loss of biodiversity and desertification of land which leads to food insecurity in the country and in the end increase the poverty rate; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by Government for this climate crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Yes Sir. Various steps have been taken by the Government of India to reduce land degradation and desertification of land to ensure food security. For example, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has taken up various programmes like the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture which includes interventions such as the Soil Health Card, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North-Eastern Region, Rain Fed Area Development, National Agro-Forestry policy and the sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry, National Bamboo Mission, Prime Minister Krishi Sinchai Yojna- Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY) etc.

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (of the Watershed Management Division of the Ministry of Rural Development) was amalgamated as a Watershed Development Component of PMKSY in 2015-16 and an area of about 20.5 million hectares has been developed under completed and ongoing projects. Upto October 2019 an amount of Rs 17751.75 crore has been released to States as Central share for implementation of Watershed Development Project. Between 2014-15 to 2019-20 (upto September 2019), total 6,08,384 water harvesting structures were created/rejuvenated, an additional area of 13,47,527 hectares has been brought under protective irrigation, and 27,25,587 farmers have been benefitted during the said period. Under afforestation/horticultural activities 92,000 hectares degraded and rain-fed lands have been covered during 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto second quarter).

To conserve our biodiversity and to facilitate and regulate the country's biodiversity the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules in 2004 have been enacted. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) were established in 28 States and 52% of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) were constituted at local body level. NBA, SBBs and BMCs are vested with functions to preserve our biodiversity as per the provision of the said Act and Rules to ensure food security for our future. "National Biodiversity Mission for Human Wellbeing" has been launched for linking the biodiversity with the well-being of humans.

(b) A number of steps to prevent global warming and combat climate change through various schemes and programs have been taken, like:-

- (i) The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises eight missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change. These eight national missions represent multi-pronged, long-term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.'
- (ii) National Mission for a Green India is one of the eight Missions under the NAPCC. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change. The Mission Goals are-
 - (a) To increase forest/tree cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and improve quality of forest/tree cover on another 5 mha of forest/non-forest lands;
 - (b) To improve/enhance eco-system services like carbon sequestration and storage (in forests and other ecosystems), hydrological services and biodiversity; along with provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces (NTFPs); and
 - (c) To increase forest based livelihood income of about 3 million households.

- (iii) Thirty-three States and Union Territories (UTs) have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change in line with NAPCC taking into account State's/UT's specific issues relating to climate change.
- (iv) This Ministry is also implementing the scheme, 'National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change' to support adaptation measures of States/UTs in areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.
- (v) Under the Paris Agreement, India has submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) with target to reduce the emissions intensity of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level, to achieve about 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030, and to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tones of CO₂eq through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Legislation to reduce carbon emission

2264. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to enact legislation in order to bring down the level of carbon emission to reduce the impact of climate change in the country, particularly in metro cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) No Sir.

(b) Government of India has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to address the issues related to climate change. The NAPCC provides the overarching framework for all climate actions. NAPCC comprises eight missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Green India, sustainable agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change. These missions outline a number of steps to