

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-179
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21/07/2023

LOSS OF CROPS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

179 # **SMT. MAHUA MAJI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India being an agricultural country that every year, due to inclement weather, there is a heavy loss of crops which not only worsens the economic condition of the farmers but also affects the country's economy;
- (b) whether Government is working on any scheme to minimize the loss incurred by farmers due to inclement weather;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is working on different schemes to minimize the loss incurred by the farmers due to inclement weather. To reduce the impacts of climate change on food grain production and to develop resilient technologies, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched a flagship network project “National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture” (NICRA) in 2011. Under the programme, climate resilient varieties have been developed for extreme weather conditions and have been demonstrated through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in 151 climatically risk-prone districts. Varieties and resilient intercropping systems performed better than traditional farmers’ practices resulting in improved yields up to 18% in the adopted villages. Further, planting methods such as zero till, raised bed planting, cropping intensification with harvested water were demonstrated in North-Eastern and Eastern States, resulting in yield enhancement up to 50%. Location specific *in-situ* moisture conservation measures such as Broad Bed and Furrow (BBF) in soybean, compartmental bunding in pearl millet, tied ridging in sorghum, conservation furrows in finger millet & pigeon pea intercropping system at several locations produced higher yield (up to 63%) compared to flat method of sowing.

Climate resilient technologies viz., conservation agriculture, zero till drill sowing of wheat to escape terminal heat stress, alternate methods of rice cultivation (system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeded rice), green manuring, integrated farming systems, *in-situ* moisture conservation, protective irrigation from harvested rainwater in farm pond, micro irrigation method (drip and sprinkler) etc. have also been developed and evaluated in farmers' fields for their adoption. These technologies have been widely adopted by the farmers across the country and imparted stability in productivity and production particularly in the rainfed areas.

The State Government is primarily responsible for providing necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additional financial assistance, over and above SDRF, is considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for natural calamities of severe nature, as per the established procedures. The assistance approved under SDRF/NDRF norms is provided in the form of relief.

In addition, the Government of India has introduced yield based "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" (PMFBY) and weather based "Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme" (WBCIS) from Kharif 2016 season to provide financial support to the farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of natural calamities, adverse weather incidence and to stabilize the income of the farmers. Comprehensive risk insurance is provided under the scheme from pre-harvesting to post-harvest losses. Under this Scheme, the claims are paid to only those farmers who have insured their crops and paid their share of premium under any of the notified crop insurance scheme in the notified area/crop by the State Government. The scheme is optional for the States/Union Territories.
