

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1978
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Environmental degradation in Karnataka

1978. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether nearly 80 per cent of 31 districts in Karnataka are drought-prone and 77 percent of geographic area of State is arid or semi-arid;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any study regarding environmental degradation and fragility of Karnataka's environment resulting in incessant flash floods, landslides in coastal districts and Malnad region;
- (c) if so, details of steps taken to address the same;
- (d) whether Government is aware that increase in water logging in many parts of Karnataka during monsoon makes tracts of cultivable land unusable; and
- (e) details of funds allocated for management of climate change related damages during last five years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) Incidents of drought in Karnataka State are primarily due to spatial and temporal variation in rainfall. The drought affected area covers almost the entire rainfed agricultural area and as per Agro-ecological sub region map of the country published by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for Karnataka State, around 16% area falls under Arid and 37% area falls under Semi-Arid area.
- (b) The Space Applications Centre (SAC), ISRO has carried out Desertification / Land Degradation Status mapping for entire country, including Karnataka and as per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas 2021, around 36.29% (6.96 million ha) of the total geographical area of Karnataka State is undergoing Desertification/ Land Degradation.
- (c) &(d) The Government of Karnataka through its State Action Plan for Climate Change has envisaged extensive interventions focused on climate change adaptation strategies to enhance the State's resilience to natural disasters and improve disaster response systems based on detailed studies. This includes adaptation, mitigation and response measures to water logging in many parts of Karnataka for which the relevant State Departments such as Water Resources, Agriculture, and State Disaster Management Authority etc. take appropriate action regularly.

(e) The State Governments provides financial relief to the people affected, by climate change related damages including, including drought, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). In the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is extended from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per the laid down procedure. The Government of India has approved a financial assistance of Rs. 3498.82 crores from NDRF to the State Government of Karnataka in 2023-24 in the wake of drought.
