

Concern over adverse effects of climate change on agriculture in the country

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab): * "Hon. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue and Sat Shri Akaal to all the members; I Shall speak on Climate Change. 310 districts of the country have come under the influence of climate change about which Agriculture Ministry submitted a report in the year 2003 which also included 9 districts of Punjab, 8 districts of Himachal and 11 districts of Haryana. Thus total 310 district were affected by global warming which led to flooding. For about two to three months due to the flood waters the State of Punjab remained waterlogged which led to massive damage to the crops of the farmers. The labourers were also affected and the compensation dispersed by the Government is very less whereas the loss is very high. The farmer is already burdened by poverty and also he is not getting the required price for his crops and so when they face such calamity they suffer a lot. So it is required is that a helping hand be extended to them. It may be mentioned that the drought along with the heat wave (hot winds) in the year 2022 affected the wheat crop in India and the wheat production decreased from 109.59 million tons to 107.7 million tons in the year 2021.

In the year 2023 also, due to the same reason, the production of wheat was less than the target by about 30 lakh tons. Due to this, India, the second largest wheat producer in the world, had to be forced to ban the export of wheat. During the floods in Punjab, the paddy crop was destroyed in 2019 and 2023. Officials were of the opinion that floods occur in Punjab only in the months of August/September, but the impact of climate change was clearly seen when the floods occurred on July 11th in the year 2023. According to the data of the Punjab government, the revenue loss of 1200 crores due to the floods in the year 2019, of which 300 crores was of damage to the infrastructure.

As per Economic survey the climate change is also having a direct impact on our food prices. These prices have doubled in the last three years. In the year 2022 this growth was 3.8 percent, in 2023 this growth was 6.6 percent and this year it has reached 7.5 percent. According to research, this increase in food prices is due to climate change. Crop yields are thus decreasing due to factors like climate change leading to floods and hot windy weather."

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sant Balbir Singh: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), and Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala).

12.00 Noon

PANEL OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform that the following Members have been nominated to the existing Panel of Vice-Chairpersons:

1. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari
2. Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour...

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Sir, I am thankful to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is Question Hour.

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगे: महोदय, मैं क्वेश्चन ऑवर से पहले जीरो ऑवर और क्वेश्चन ऑवर के बीच में बोल रहा हूँ और आपकी परमिशन सर्वोपरि रहती है। All rules can be suspended. You can keep.. You are supreme, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to decide on a point of order exactly saying the same thing.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Pardon me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am so beholden to you. The point of order raised yesterday was virtually determined by you. With your huge experience.