

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2818

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007

CLIMATIC CHANGE

Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Suman Shri Ramji Lal

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation wherein it has been stated that agricultural production in India can reduce by 125 million tonne due to climatic change;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has studied the report;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to take steps effective to save agricultural production from such ill-effects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(e): FAO Newsroom of Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations, reported that Climate change is likely to undermine food production in the developing world, while industrialized countries could gain in production potential. It has also been mentioned that Crop yield potential is likely to increase at higher latitudes for global average temperature increases of up to 1 to 30C depending on the crop, and then decrease beyond that. On the contrary, at lower latitudes, especially in the seasonally dry tropics, crop yield potential is likely to decline for even small global temperature rises, which would increase the risk of hunger. It has also been reported that greater frequency of droughts and floods would affect local production negatively, especially in subsistence sectors at low latitudes. It has also been claimed that Rainfed Agriculture in marginal areas in semi-arid and sub-humid regions is mostly at risk and India could lose 125 million tons of its rainfed cereal production – equivalent to 18 percent of its total production. The impacts of climate change on forests and on forest dependent people are already evident in increased incidences of forest fires and outbreaks of forest pests and diseases. Climate change adaptation will be needed in a variety of ecosystems, including agro-ecosystems (crops, livestock and grasslands) forests and woodlands, inland waters and coastal and marine ecosystems. This reporting is based on the speech of the FAO Director General Dr. Jacques Diouf in a Conference held at M.S. Swaminathan Foundation in Chennai recently.

Considering the possible impacts climate change could have on Indian agriculture and economy, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched in 2004 a National Network Project on `Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change`. The major objectives of this Project are to quantify the sensitivity of crops including horticultural crops and plantations, soils, water, fish and livestock to global climatic changes.

In addition to above, Government of India is implementing various programmes namely,

- (i)National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPA),
- (ii)Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),
- (iii)Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS),
- (iv)Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA),
- (v)Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP),
- (vi)Desert Development Programme (DDP),
- (vii)Integrated Waste- land Development Project (IWDP),
- (viii)National Afforestation Programme (NAP),
- (ix)National Horticulture Mission,
- (x)Micro Irrigation Scheme,
- (xi)National Project on Organic Farming, and
- (xii)Integrated Pest Management for resource conservation and to promote efficient utilization of soil, water and other nutrients etc. for sustainable agricultural production in the country.