

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 528
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

Study on impact of climate change on Punjab

528. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:
SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any study to assess the impact of climate change on the natural ecosystems and biodiversity of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government intends to build a database to document the changes in natural ecosystems and biodiversity due to climate change in the said regions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of other steps taken by Government to safeguard the biodiversity and help local communities adapt to climate change along with the funds provided in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) The Government of India through its various Ministries/Departments assesses the impact of climate change in keeping with the new data and increased scientific knowledge on the subject. Also, at the State level various research organisations, universities, academia undertake studies on climate change as per their mandate.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has conducted a study on 'Risk and vulnerability assessment of Indian agriculture to climate change' under the project 'National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture' which provides information on Indian States including the State of Punjab. The study report inter-alia includes information on relative position of 17 rural districts of the Punjab in relation to climate change risk and various determinants viz., exposure, vulnerability and hazard. The analysis indicated that out of 17 districts, 5 are categorized as very high-risk and 4 as high-risk prone.

(c) Punjab State Council for Science & Technology has established the Punjab State Climate Change Knowledge Centre (PSCCKC) under the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change with support from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. PSCCKC has several functions which, inter-alia, include creating climate change information bank and strengthening knowledge network, and undertake

climate change related vulnerability and risk assessment. PSCCKC has conducted district level climate change vulnerability study for Punjab based on uniform National Framework of DST. The findings of this study are available in the report “Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India Using a Common Framework” published by DST in 2020.

(d) The Government of India is addressing concerns relating to biodiversity and natural ecosystems through both promotional and legal measures. Government has enacted the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 which is aimed at conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these resources.

Under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change, a project “Towards Climate Resilient Livestock Production System in Punjab” has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 17.40 crores with focus on Ludhiana, Bathinda and Tarn Taran districts of Punjab. The objective of the project is to ensure sustainability of incomes for small and marginal livestock farmers under ongoing and projected warming scenario in Punjab and harness co-benefits through housing stray cattle in a climate friendly environment, and to also develop weather linked insurance to compensate for loss in income due to decrease in milk yield of buffalo/cattle.

Further, Biodiversity Management Committees have been constituted and Peoples’ Biodiversity Registers have been put in place for documentation of local flora and fauna. An initiative has also been taken up to build capacity of local communities on biodiversity conservation in 7 blocks and 40 villages with the financial support of Rs. 20.50 lakhs provided by the National Biodiversity Authority.
