

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Vandana Chavan.

Need to increase efforts towards afforestation and conservation of forests and tree cover to meet 2030 carbon sink target

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, as a country, India and our hon. Prime Minister have played a stellar role at the COP-21 and made ambitious commitments at Paris.

On the renewable energy front, Sir, we are doing an exemplary job. It is now evident that we will exceed our commitments in the installation of solar energy. However, Sir, we are seriously lagging on the front of creation of the additional carbon sink to sequester the 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030 so as to be in keeping with the internationally-determined contributions.

Sir, there are several reports. Due to paucity of time, I will not read them out. All these reports reveal, Sir, that there is a major deficit and that we have a daunting task to achieve our targets. To reach the target of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2030, India will require 30 million hectares of land for afforestation. According to TERI, we have to densify the existing forests which is a conservative approach and it will achieve only one-third of the target. But the remaining two-third, Sir, will have to be achieved by afforestation of non-forest land. Sir, forest is a Concurrent subject and therefore the efforts of the State Governments are extremely important. Experts say that India has to double the rate of forest cover expansion.

Sir, I urge the Government to push the States to do their bit to encourage urban forests in the cities which is mandated by the Schedule 12 of the 74th Amendment to provide sufficient budgetary provision to involve public sector, and last but not the least, Sir, to urge that massive awareness programme be taken to ensure that citizens understand the importance of forests as carbon sinks and any interference with them will be treated as non-negotiable. Thank you, Sir.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती प्रियंका चतुर्वेदी: महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्या द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्या द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Non teaching of Tamil language in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools in Tamil Nadu

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, an RTI information has revealed some shocking facts. In Tamil Nadu, there are 49 Kendriya Vidyalaya schools. In none of these schools is there a Tamil teacher to impart Tamil education to students. On the other hand, learning Sanskrit and Hindi is compulsory and a student gets promoted to the Seventh Standard only if he gets through the Sanskrit language examination in the Sixth Standard. Sir, this is total injustice to the native language-speaking students. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, please.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: This applies to the other States also. Hence, this is a general issue, but I am bringing this out of the information that we got from the State of Tamil Nadu in response to an RTI application. Sir, this is against federalism. When these two languages have been made compulsory, why not Tamil? People choose to study in the Kendriya Vidyalayas for two reasons -- one is the good education being imparted and the second is the low fee as compared to the private schools. In such a situation, if the poor students are deprived of education in Tamil, that would be total injustice. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister for Education that Tamil should also