

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 687
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

MoU with Bhutan

687. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL
SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bhutan in the areas of environment has been signed;
- (b) if so, the details of aims and objectives of the said MoU;
- (c) the benefit that India will accrue out of these MoUs;
- (d) the time when the MoU will be implemented alongwith present status thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to improve bilateral cooperation with Bhutan in the areas of waste management, climate change, etc.?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of the Republic of India and The National Environment Commission of The Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the Areas of Environment on 18th June 2021. The objective of the MoU is to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in the field of Environment to promote a mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries through various means including through exchange of best practices. The MoU covers cooperation in areas like prevention of Air Pollution, Waste Management, Chemical Management, Climate Change, etc. The MoU became active from the date of its signatures, i.e. 18th June, 2021.

(e): India and Bhutan have an excellent history of collaboration in the area of environment including waste management. Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (TraMCA) is an initiative that started between the Royal Manas National Park, Bhutan and Manas National Park, India and later expanded to adjoining areas. TraMCA is a successful model for transboundary collaboration in wildlife conservation. The Government of India also sponsors the training of two Forest Service officers of the Royal Government of Bhutan at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun.
