

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3233
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2022

Measures to curb prevailing environmental issues

3233 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide and Greenhouse Gases next to USA and China;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effective measures taken by Government to curb the prevailing environmental issues and problems like air pollution, poor management of waste, degradation of forests, biodiversity loss, and land/soil degradation; and
- (d) the total funds allocated, in the last five years to the State of Tamil Nadu to combat major environmental issues, year-wise?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) India's portrayal as one of the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters globally is mainly based on current annual emissions. However, other metrics of country-wise emissions provide a more holistic and unbiased view. These metrics include share in historical cumulative emissions and per capita emissions. The ranking per se by any metric is of minor value unless also placed along the actual quantities. Despite being denominated as 5th, India's annual emissions amount to only about 2.60 billion tonne CO₂e, well behind the four leading emitters, China (12.30 billion tonne CO₂e), United States (6.87 billion tonne CO₂e), European Union (4.28 billion tonne CO₂e) and Russia (2.65 billion tonne CO₂e) for the year 2014 (www.unfccc.int: national inventory reports and biennial update reports). In per capita terms, India's annual emissions are even lower, and India ranks well below the world average among countries for their per capita emissions. In terms of cumulative emissions, India has contributed only about 4 per cent of the global cumulative emissions from 1850 until 2019. So, the appellation of India as the third largest emitter in the world is highlighted to disguise the high contribution of the developed countries in particular to both cumulative and per capita emissions.

The national emissions must be judged both by the equity in mitigation and in the light of climate actions being undertaken. On both grounds, India, relative to its responsibility and relative to what equity demands, is doing far more than its fair share. With more than 80% of the global carbon budget, for keeping global temperature increase below 1.5°C by 2100, having already been consumed mostly by developed countries (since 1850), countries

like India are left with very little carbon space for the future. The continuing high emissions of developed countries eats into even this reduced entitlement for India. Despite this, in the post-Paris scenario, India, in contrast to the large emitters from the developed world, has chosen to walk its climate talk, conscious of the need to pioneer a sustainable development pathway for the entire globe, while attending to the needs and aspirations of its people, economy and society.

(c) The Government of India stands committed to combating climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. Thirty-three States /Union Territories (UTs) have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with NAPCC taking into account the State-specific issues. These SAPCCs outline sector-specific and cross-sectoral priority actions, including adaptation.

The government seeks to address the environmental issues and problems like air pollution, management of waste, degradation of forests, biodiversity loss, and land/soil degradation through promotional and legal measures. The promotional measures are undertaken by various ministries/departments through various programs, schemes and activities in close cooperation, with state governments and all other stakeholders, to preventing air pollution, management of waste, enhancing forest and biodiversity and preventing land/soil degradation. Further, the regulatory measures are implemented through Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016; and rules and Notifications under these Acts, as amended from time to time.

A number of actions have been taken by the Government to combat air pollution, waste, degradation of forests, biodiversity loss, and land/soil degradation, which inter alia, includes the following:

- Ministry has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 per cent reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million plus cities.
- As per Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, local bodies and village panchayats shall facilitate construction, operation and maintenance of solid waste processing facilities and associated infrastructure on their own or with private sector participation or through any agency for optimum utilization of various components of solid waste adopting suitable technology including the technologies and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs from time to time and standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- The Government has launched several schemes/programmes which include inter - alia the National Afforestation Program, Green India Mission, Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) which contribute to

the target of restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land and achievement of land degradation neutrality with focus on sustainable and optimum utilization of land resources. This will help in preserving forests and biodiversity, facilitating conservation of natural resources and improving carbon sinks.

- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 enacted in pursuance to the Convention on Biological Diversity to which India is a Party, 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, also known as access and benefit sharing (ABS). The Act is implemented through a three-tiered institutional mechanism, namely National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the national level, State Biodiversity Boards at the State level, and Biodiversity Management Committees at the local body level.

(d) The total funds allocated, in the last five years to the State of Tamil Nadu to combat major environmental issues for some indicative schemes of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are as follows:

(i) National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) is for conservation and management of identified wetlands and lakes in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lakefront development. Under the NPCA scheme, central assistance is provided based on proposals received from the State Governments. Funds released under NPCA for conservation of wetlands for last five years in the State of Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Funds released under NPCA (Amount in Rs. Lakhs)						
Sr. No.	Name of Wetland	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	KazuveliKaliveli	36.56	24.94	38.31	0	0
2	Point Calimere	25.05	49.90	44.77	0	0
3	Pallaikarni	44.19	45.25	54.13	0	0

(ii) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) -Development of Wildlife Habitats, fund is provided to State/UTs mainly for conservation and management of Protected Areas (PAs), recovery of endangered species, mitigating man-animal conflict, and voluntary relocation of families for creating inviolate space for wild animals. Details of funds released to State Government of Tamil Nadu under CSS- Development of Wildlife Habitats are as follows:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Amount in Rs. Lakhs	0	394.73	384.10	409.50	334.04

(iii) Details of fund released under the two schemes; namely, Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and National Adaptation Fund (NAF) for climate change during the last five years are as follows:

Amount in Rs. Lakhs					
Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Climate Change Action Plan	50	134.22	72.69	12	0
National Adaptation Fund	0	0	2190.12	237	0

(iv) National Afforestation and Eco-development Board had implemented National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for ecological restoration of degraded forest areas through people participation. Details of amount released to the State of Tamil Nadu during last five years are as follows:

Amount in Rs. Crores					
Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
National Afforestation Programme	1.56	--	2.07	--	--
