

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1655
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.08.2023

Action plan on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report

1655. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

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

- (a) the manner in which the Ministry looks at the IPCC Report and its significance for the country;
- (b) in what manner the above Report echoes PM's vision of Mission LIFE;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there would be severe rainfall in southern parts of India and India would be vulnerable in terms of population that will be affected by rise in sea-level; and
- (d) the efforts being made by Government through G20 and other multi-lateral agencies and groups to address these and other problems highlighted in the IPCC report?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), periodically prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports on the state of knowledge on climate change, its causes, potential impacts and response options. Scientists from all over the world, including India, contribute to the preparation of IPCC Assessment Reports. IPCC Reports form the basis of climate negotiations.

IPCC's latest report viz. the Synthesis Report, released in March 2023, integrates the main findings of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) based on contributions from the three Working Groups, and the three Special Reports. The report recognizes the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies; the value of diverse forms of knowledge; and the close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development, and reflects the increasing diversity of actors involved in climate action.

The report re-emphasizes India's consistently held position that development is our first defence against climate change and that urgent and rapid climate actions are needed by the developed countries based on the principles of climate justice and equity, both in terms of emissions reduction and the mobilizing of finance and making available the latest technology to the developing countries.

The Synthesis Report echoes Prime Minister's vision for "LiFE", or Lifestyle for Environment, which is a global mass movement for promoting environmental friendly lifestyle to protect and preserve the environment. The report notes with high confidence that many options are available for reducing emission-intensive consumption, including through behavioural and lifestyle changes, with co-benefits for societal well-being.

(c) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has carried out an analysis of observed monsoon rainfall variability and changes of 29 States & Union Territory at State and District levels based on the IMD's observational data of recent 30 years (1989-2018) during the Southwest monsoon season from June to September (JJAS) and issued a report on 30 March 2020.

Considering district-wise rainfall, there are many districts in the country, which show significant changes in southwest monsoon and annual rainfall during the recent 30 years period (1989-2018). With regard to the frequency of heavy rainfall days, significant increasing trend is observed over Saurashtra & Kutch, South-eastern parts of Rajasthan, Northern parts of Tamil Nadu, Northern parts of Andhra Pradesh and adjoining areas of Southwest Odisha, many parts of Chhattisgarh, Southwest Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Manipur & Mizoram, Konkan & Goa and Uttarakhand.

Observations indicate that various parts of the country have witnessed increasing extreme weather events in the backdrop of global warming. Complex interactions between the earth system components amidst the warming environment and regional anthropogenic influences have led to a rise in frequency of localized heavy rainfall events, drought and flood occurrences, increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones etc. Studies have reported significant rising trends in the frequency and the magnitude of extreme rainfall across India.

Further, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, sea levels have risen globally because of the continental ice melt and thermal expansion of ocean water in response to global warming. Sea-level rise in the North Indian Ocean (NIO) occurred at a rate of 1.06–1.75 mm per year during 1874–2004 and has accelerated to 3.3 mm per year in the last two and a half decades (1993–2017), which is comparable to the current rate of global mean sea-level rise.

(d) India is holding the Presidency of the G20, the premier global forum for international economic cooperation, from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. India's G20 Presidency priorities are inclusive and grounded, with broad areas of substantive deliberations comprising inclusive and resilient growth; progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); green development and LiFE; technological transformation and public digital infrastructure; reforming multilateral institutions; women led development; and international peace and harmony. The recently held G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting has issued an Outcome Document and Chair's Summary which deals with the environment and climate change issues.
