

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 533
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Ill-effects of climate change

533. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA

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

- (a) whether Government has evaluated how the country would be affected by global warming as predicted by numerous experts and international groups, such as the UN;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto; and
- (c) the strategy being finalized for combating the ill-effects of the climate change?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Climate change is a global phenomenon and a cross-cutting issue spanning across various Ministries/ Departments and institutions under them. Studies related to climate change is mainly sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Sectoral aspects of climate change are also studied by different Ministries/Departments concerning sectors like agriculture, water resources, human health, power, renewable energy, transport, urban, etc. Further, a large number of universities and government research institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Central and State Universities and their departments also carry out climate change related research.

India declared its National Determined Contributions(NDCs) which gives details of our commitment/goals towards combating climate change and preventing Global warming. The quantifiable National Determined Contributions announced for the first time in 2015 were achieved substantially much before the targeted year. As against the target of reduction of emission intensity by 33% from 2005 level till 2030; 24% reduction was achieved by 2016 and 33% reduction has been achieved by 2019 as per the latest National Communication. Similarly, India achieved another NDC target of generation of cumulative electrical power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy sources nine years in advance of the target year of

2030. An additional carbon sink of 1.97 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent has been created by 2021 as against the target of creation of 2.5 – 3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 through additional tree and forest cover.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment in combating Climate Change, India announced more ambitious and revised NDCs in 2022 committing the reduction of emission intensity by 45%, over 2005 level till 2030, and 50% cumulative electrical power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy sources by 2030. In addition to these quantifiable NDC goals; ‘LiFE’ – ‘Lifestyle for Environment’ has been included as a non-quantifiable goal under NDCs to involve citizens through a global mass movement in combating climate change and to put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation.

Further, India has also submitted its Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) towards net zero by 2070, to the UNFCCC in November 2022. The LT-LEDS gives details of the ongoing policies and programmes as well as the transitions envisaged towards low carbon development pathways in seven key sectors including promoting economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low emission industrial system.

India’s actions on climate change are guided by the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which is the overarching policy framework and comprises national missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, human health and strategic knowledge on climate change. These national missions are anchored by specific line Ministries with each mission having its action plan for addressing climate change while ensuring development.

In so far India is concerned, with more than 17% of the global population, it has contributed to less than 4% of the global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2019. Apart from resolutely addressing climate change domestically, India has launched international coalitions such as International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Recently, at COP26 in Glasgow, new initiatives under CDRI and ISA, viz, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) were also launched. Along with Sweden, India co-leads the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) for voluntary low carbon transition of hard to abate sectors. During the recent G20 summit, India also announced Global Bio-fuel Alliance.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced Green Credit Program (GCP) to encourage environmentally friendly practices rooted in tradition and conservation: reflecting the ideas of LiFE concept. Green Credit Program (GCP) notified on 13th October, 2023 is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors, by various stakeholders like individuals, communities, private sector industries, and companies.
