

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No 690
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets

690 Shri K. C. Venugopal:

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

- (a) whether Government has bypassed compliance with the Forest Rights Act and Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in achieving Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets;
- (b) whether Government intends to engage in consultations with forest-dependent communities regarding NDC and other international climate change agreements; and
- (c) given the impact of eco-tourism on sensitive ecosystems, the criteria established to classify tourism projects as "eco-tourism," and the authority responsible for monitoring these activities?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the Paris Agreement, India has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with quantified targets, including the creation of an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. The compliance of these NDCs is undertaken in consonance with the provisions of relevant legislations including the The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- (b) The implementation of various afforestation and forest restoration activities aimed towards creation of additional forest and tree cover are taken up by involving local communities and through the participation of Joint Forest Management Committees established at village levels. Additionally, the fulfillment of National Determined Contributions (NDC) commitments across diverse sectors is carried out collaboratively by various Ministries and Departments, engaging a range of stakeholders, including State Governments.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change has issued detailed guidelines in 2021, for implementation of sustainable eco-tourism activities in forest and wildlife areas. As per the guidelines, the District, State and National level monitoring committees comprising of representatives of relevant stakeholder departments, the local communities, civil societies, and the corporate organisations oversee the implementation of sustainable eco-tourism activities.
