

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2294
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Per capita emission level

2294. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) the per capita emission level in India vis-à-vis China, US and Europe;
- (b) the fund used in the last four years to bring down emission level in the country; and
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to bring down per capita emission level in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) Climate change is a global collective action problem mainly precipitated by developed countries' excessive historical and current emissions. India's share of historical cumulative emissions from 1850 to 2019 amounts to less than 4 percent of global cumulative carbon dioxide emissions despite being home to more than 17% of the world's population. India is an emerging economy where Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are set to increase, albeit from a low base, in pursuit of its development and poverty eradication goals. India's responsibility for global warming thus has been minimal; even today, its annual per capita emissions are only about one-third of the global average.

Based on the greenhouse gas data with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and population data of the World Bank, for the year 2020, it is estimated that India's per capita GHG emission was 1.74 tonnes CO₂ eq which is far below the per capita emissions per year of developed countries as well as many developing countries including China. The per capita greenhouse gas emissions for China in 2020 was 8.83 tonnes CO₂ eq, the United State of America was 15.84 tonnes CO₂ eq, and European Union was 6.83 tonnes CO₂ eq.

India's climate action is multifaceted and implemented through various programmes and schemes by various central Ministries, Departments, States and Union Territories. There are various climate benefits (direct and/or indirect) across various programmes/schemes of the Government. Therefore, estimating actual finance expenditure is difficult.

India's climate commitments with respect to emissions are reflected in its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC in August 2022. India's NDC related to emissions in quantitative terms are cumulative electric power installed capacity from

non-fossil sources to reach 50% by 2030; reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45 percent compared to 2005 levels and creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

India's NDC also includes a goal on putting forward and further propagating a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE' – 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combat climate change.

The **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment), a global initiative launched by India, aims at fostering sustainable lifestyles through mindful and deliberate consumption to protect the environment. The initiative focuses on seven core themes: saving water, conserving energy, reducing waste, managing e-waste, eliminating single-use plastics, promoting sustainable food systems, and adopting healthy lifestyles. All participating member States at 6th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) committed to promote sustainable lifestyles by adopting the resolution on sustainable lifestyles proposed by India.

The Government stands committed to combat 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, health, Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions. Thirty-four States/Union Territories (UTs) have prepared their State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with NAPCC considering the State specific issues relating to climate change. The responsibility of the implementation of the SAPCC's rest with the respective States.
