

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Zero emission targets

2305. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the actions Ministry is taking to ensure that India remains on track to achieve its net-zero emissions target by 2070, following the reported 7.93 per cent reduction in GHG emissions in 2020;
- (b) details of the frameworks and systems in place to monitor progress towards the 2070 net-zero target, and manner in which Government would ensure transparency and accountability in reporting emissions reductions;
- (c) details of these monitoring frameworks, including the role of relevant agencies and stakeholders; and
- (d) the manner in which Ministry plans to align these actions with India's economic growth, ensuring that emission reduction efforts do not hinder industrial and developmental progress?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) As a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), India periodically submits its National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) to the UNFCCC. As per the latest report submitted by India (Fourth Biennial Update Report) in December 2024, India's net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in 2020 were 2,437 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. Globally, emissions in the year 2020 were lower than 2019 due to the lockdown imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In-line with the global trends, India's GHG emissions in 2020 reduced by 7.93 per cent with respect to 2019.

India, at the 26th session of UNFCCC (COP 26) in November 2021, announced its target to achieve net zero emissions by 2070. In pursuance thereof, India submitted its Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) to the UNFCCC in November 2022, which provides a framework involving seven key strategic transitions for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. These include i) low-carbon development of electricity systems consistent with development, ii) develop an integrated, efficient and inclusive transport system, iii) promote adaptation in urban design, energy and material efficiency in buildings, and sustainable urbanisation, iv) promoting economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low emission industrial system, v) development of carbon dioxide

removal and related engineering solutions, vi) enhancing forest and vegetation cover consistent with socio-economic and ecological considerations and vii) economic and financial needs of low-carbon development.

India's approach to its long-term low-carbon development strategy is based on four key considerations: i) India has contributed little to global warming, ii) India has significant energy needs for its development, iii) India is committed to pursuing low-carbon strategies for development and is actively pursuing them, as per national circumstances, and iv) India needs to build climate resilience. India's LT-LEDS is based on the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), and right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget, aligning with the call for climate justice.

India's net-zero target is to be achieved through periodic enhancement of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and corresponding domestic climate actions towards low carbon transition, supported by climate finance and technology transfer under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and as per its national circumstances keeping in mind the principles of CBDR-RC. Further, as per the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement, Parties are required to submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) which mandates providing information on progress made in implementing and achieving its NDCs.
