

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
PRESSURE FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES ON GLOBAL WARMING .

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SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is under pressure from the western countries with regard to global warming;
- (b) whether the cabinet is unanimous in this regard;
- (c) the plan to protect the country's interest in the next world talks; and
- (d) the efforts being made to maintain a balance between conservation of environment saving energy and growth in industrial production?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The western countries have been urging that major developing countries, including India, should also take on emission reduction commitments to prevent global warming.

(b) & (c) The Government is of the view that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals and eradication of poverty, our economy has to grow and thereby our emissions shall also grow. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also recognizes this fact. India's position is fully anchored in UN Convention on Climate Change including its Kyoto Protocol and Bali Action Plan. The Government is committed to protect country's interest in the on-going as well as future climate change negotiations.

(d) As per Kyoto Protocol only developed countries are obliged to take on emission reduction commitments. Though not binding, India has taken a number of voluntary steps for conservation of environment while pursuing a path of sustainable development. These include The National Solar Mission and the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat under The National Action Plan on Climate Change. Besides, Government has taken several steps towards sustainable development through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change aimed at energy conservation, improved energy efficiency in various sectors; promoting use of renewable energy; power sector reforms; use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport; fuel switching to cleaner energy; afforestation and conservation of forests; promotion of clean coal technologies and encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems.