

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 13
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

National Decarbonisation Plans

*13. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set out multiple time bound National Decarbonisation Plans in order to ensure an orderly transition to net-zero by 2070;
- (b) if so, the details of the same; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore and the time by which these plans will be made?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 DUE FOR REPLY ON 02.02.2023 RAISED BY
SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN**

(a) to (c) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its Sixth Assessment Report has recognized that it is the cumulative emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) up to net zero that is the key to limiting global warming, and not the timing of the peaking of emissions and the timing of reaching net zero considered by themselves. These cumulative emissions are referred to as the global carbon budget and is a global resource that must be equitably shared by all countries.

Developed countries have used up a disproportionate share of the global carbon budget and as a result, they have high levels of per capita GDP, energy use, and emissions. The real solution to the problem of global warming will come from rapid mitigation and vacation of carbon space by developed economies, even as developing countries adopt the path of low carbon development across key economic sectors and contribute to the global efforts to combat climate change in accordance with the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in the light of different national circumstances.

India is an emerging economy where GHG emissions are set to increase, albeit from a low base, in pursuit of its development and poverty eradication goals. It is to be noted that India's cumulative emissions till 2019 amount to less than 4 percent of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions of the world from the pre-industrial era, despite being home to 17 per cent of the world's population. Hence, India's responsibility for global warming thus far has been minimal and even today its annual per capita emissions are only about one-third of the global average.

Hence, keeping in view the challenge of global warming that has been intensified by the inaction of developed countries, India, at the 26th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) in November, 2021, announced its target to achieve net zero by 2070.

In recognition of the Para 19 of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, India's long-term low-carbon development strategy, has been submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and it reaffirms the goal of reaching net-zero by 2070. India's long-term low-carbon development strategy is based on the principles of equity and climate justice and the principle of CBDR-RC.

Based on these foundations, the key principle of India's climate policy, therefore, is to pursue its development goals according to national circumstances while keeping within its fair share of the global carbon budget. The four key considerations that underlie India's low-carbon development strategy are i) that India has contributed little to global warming, ii) India has significant energy needs for its development, iii) India is committed to and actively pursuing its low-carbon development in keeping with its national circumstances, and iv) India needs to build climate resilience. India's low-carbon strategy further takes note that alongside the imperative of development is the need to ensure the country's energy security, based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and rational utilization of fossil fuel resources.

India's long-term low-carbon development strategy therefore rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways. 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. With respect to each of these transitions, India's low-carbon development strategy document has elaborated the international and national context as relevant, the current policies and programmes already being implemented as well as the key elements for each transition, potential benefits and challenges.

Ethanol blending with petrol, the National green hydrogen mission, promotion of electric vehicles and tremendous push on the renewable energy front are some of the significant initiatives that India is pursuing towards a clean and green energy future. Programmes for large-scale LEDs for public lighting and the promotion of LEDs for domestic lighting, as well as the programme for clean fuel for household use, are testimony to India's commitment to a low-carbon development pathway for the future.

India's net zero goal entails a five-decade long journey and India's strategy must therefore be evolutionary and flexible, accommodating new developments in technology, the global economy and international cooperation.
