

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 50
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Environmental laws relating to climate change

50. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government feels the necessity to constitute a high power committee to review the country's environment related laws in the present context;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to place climate change at the center of India's environmental policies; and
- (d) the details of the concrete steps being taken by Government to fulfill the pledge of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Earlier the Ministry has constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) headed by Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, for reviewing six Environmental Acts. The report submitted by the HLC was reviewed by the Parliament Standing Committee on Science & Technology, in the year 2015. The Parliament Standing Committee did not find the recommendations of the Committee well considered and made a suggestion that the Government may consider appointing another Committee by following established procedures and comprising of acclaimed experts in the field who may be given enough time to enter into comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders for considering afresh specific areas of environmental policy. Legislative reform is a continuous process and environmental laws also need amendment from time to time to address extant weaknesses, topical needs and better alignment with the policies. The Ministry has since issued a number of Notifications and Office Memoranda to address specific issues related to the implementation of environmental laws. Therefore, in the present context there does not appear any need to constitute a high power committee to review the country's environment related laws.

(c) and (d) India has submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period of 2021-2030 under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. India's NDC are a significant contribution towards the global climate action to address the challenge of climate change. India stands committed to combat climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises of missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, sustainable agriculture,

Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, health, green India, and strategic knowledge for climate change. Appropriate measures are being taken under these schemes and programs across many sectors both at the national and the state levels. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement calls for their parties to formulate and communicate Long Term Low greenhouse gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). In this context, India has submitted the Long-term Low Carbon Development Strategies, in accordance with the principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in light of National circumstances. The strategy lays out India's vision and approaches towards reaching net-zero by 2070.
