

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 848**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 27.07.2023

**Accountability of Government departments and Public Sector Units for carbon emissions**

848. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:  
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) the plan of Government to hold large organizations in high carbon-emitting sectors accountable for not reducing their carbon emissions and net-zero transition;
- (b) the plan to hold Government departments and public sector units accountable for not reducing their carbon emissions and net-zero transition;
- (c) the details of due diligence mandated by Government for such organizations and whether these organizations have transition plans and science-based targets to ensure climate action; and
- (d) the plan to ensure that carbon emission data disclosed by organizations both Private and Government is based on a rigorous methodology and whether there will be an External audit mandated by Government for each organization?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement to which India is a Party, state clearly that the emissions of developing countries, India included, will rise to meet their social and developmental needs. The Paris Agreement specifically notes that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties and will be on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

India has always noted that while it is committed to being part of the solution for global collective action problem of climate change, the developed countries bear the main responsibility, both historical and current, and should also take the lead urgently for drastic emission reduction in their countries. India with more than 17% of the global population has contributed only about 4% of the global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2019. Reports from various sources, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, highlight the reality that the challenges faced due to global warming are mainly due to the cumulative historical and current greenhouse gas emissions of the developed countries. Accordingly, India's emissions will continue to rise and will peak after global peaking is achieved as the Paris Agreement clearly states. On the basis of equity and climate justice,

keeping in view the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, India is entitled to a fair share of the global carbon budget.

In the light of these considerations, India's climate policy is directed towards sustainable development and poverty eradication, while striving continuously to decouple emissions from growth and the pursuit of energy efficiency across the economy. However, in keeping with the effort to progressively delink growth from emissions, the emission intensity of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has reduced by 24% between 2005 and 2016. In this light, organizations and companies in notified sectors have been brought under the ambit of Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme which is directed to promote energy efficiency in key sectors. Alongside, Government is making every effort such as increasing renewable energy capacity and use, the use of electric vehicles and other such initiatives, schemes and programs covering several sectors of the economy.

India is committed to combating climate change, by making development choices that ensure growth and development of economy along low carbon pathways towards net-zero by 2070. Individual organisations, entities and start-ups are encouraged to pursue low carbon growth and pursue such emission reduction targets as they may find feasible and profitable. The Government holds in high regard the continuing enthusiasm and efforts of India's entrepreneurial and business leaders to pursue the goals of sustainability including the setting of emissions reduction and even net-zero targets where feasible. However, it is recognised that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the informal sectors will require considerable financial support, technology transfer and capacity building support to achieve a just transition to low-carbon growth.

Taking all the relevant factors into consideration, it is the outcomes and benefits of development together with the availability of climate finance, technology transfer and support for capacity building as provided for in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement that will determine the nature of India's transition to net zero.

At the economy wide level, the emissions of the industrial sector are aggregated and reported based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines.

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