

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 134
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Green Industrial Policy

134. SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:

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

- (a) in what ways India is strategically using its G20 Presidency to foster international collaboration on climate change, and the specific initiatives or dialogues it has introduced to advance this agenda;
- (b) the role innovation plays in shaping a forward-looking green industrial policy, and in what manner Government would incentivize private sector investment in research and development to foster the creation of eco-friendly technologies and processes; and
- (c) as to how a well-crafted green industrial policy balances the imperatives of economic growth and environmental sustainability, and the key regulatory frameworks which are essential to ensure its effective implementation?

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 PART (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 134 BY SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA REGARDING “GREEN INDUSTRIAL POLICY”.

(a) to (c): Issues of climate change is not directly a matter of the G20 and is considered for deeper negotiation and deliberation at the COP platform. However, India through its G20 Presidency established global leadership on topics of environment and climate change through the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group at the G20 Summit. The Green Development Pact that the G20 nations endorsed through the New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration highlighted the collective commitment to combat climate change, showcasing strong international cooperation in this regard.

India ensured consensus among G20 countries on matters that have witnessed acceptance in previous COPs (such as Paris Agreement, Glasgow Climate Pact, Sharm-el-Sheikh Implementation Plan amongst others) and secured affirmation to accelerate action. G20 nations shared a common concern that global ambition and implementation to address climate change remain insufficient. Delhi Declaration adopted by G20 urged the developed Countries to fulfil their commitment to at least double their collective provision of adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025. The goal of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion climate finance per year through 2025 by developed countries to address the needs of developing nations was reaffirmed, with developed countries expecting the goal to be met for the first time in 2023.

India through its G20 Presidency has hosted detailed deliberations on matters of climate and environment, and generated consensus on several topics including land degradation and biodiversity and also launched the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Industry Coalition, created with the aim of fostering collaboration and dialogue on best practices and experience cum knowledge sharing to promote private-private partnerships. The G20 leaders also acknowledged and noted the initiative on Gandhinagar Implementation Roadmap-Gandhinagar Information Platform (GIR-GIP) in this regard.

The pathway of development followed by India has ensured balance between economy and environment sustainability. While India has continued to grow, it has also progressively decoupled emissions from economic growth and this has resulted in achievement of 33% reduction in emission intensity of GDP as per 2019 emission data relative to 2005 levels and has achieved its original Nationally Determined Contribution targets 11 years ahead of schedule. During the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage-II implementation, India completely phased out the use of HCFC- 141b in manufacturing of rigid foam, the first among the developing countries to achieve the milestone. As against target of 35% reduction from the baseline as on 1.1.2020, India achieved a reduction of 44%, highlighting India’s efforts in protection of the stratospheric ozone layer. Further, there is a remarkable increase in the number of protected areas from 745 in the year 2014 to 998, Increase in the number of Ramsar sites from 49 in the year 2014 to 75; and Increase in the forest cover observed as 1,540 sq km and tree cover as 721 sq km as compared to 2019 in the country.

India has already submitted its Long Term-Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) during COP27 which rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways. These include – i) Low-carbon electricity systems consistent with development; ii) Develop an integrated, efficient and inclusive low-carbon transport system; iii) Promote adaptation in urban design, energy and material-efficiency in buildings, and sustainable urbanisation; iv) Promote economy-wide decoupling of growth from emissions and

development of an efficient, innovative low-emission Industrial System; v) CO₂ removal and related engineering solutions; vi) Enhancing forest and vegetation cover consistent with socio-economic and ecological considerations and; vii) Economic and financial aspects of low-carbon development.

Some of the key regulatory frameworks which has helped to maintain the balance are Environmental Protection Act 1986 (as amended); Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (as amended); Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended); The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022; alongwith policy initiative like Extended Producer Responsibility for Circular Economy; Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mandated Industry specific environmental standards and based on the pollution potential, CPCB has categorized industrial sectors into red, orange, green and white categories to prompt industrial sectors to adopt cleaner technologies; Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework mandated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Green Bonds; Green Credit Program (GCP).

It is further recognized that innovation is important for appropriate and scalable technology to meet environmental objectives like minimizing emissions and waste in industry while also raising industrial productivity and employment. This is reflected in India's updated NDCs which explicitly aim '*to build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies*'. Government efforts to incentivize private sector investment in research and development for fostering the creation of eco-friendly technologies and processes can be seen in several initiatives and policies.

At the 2019 Climate Summit, India and Sweden launched the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT), supported by the World Economic Forum and the Stockholm Environment Institute. This initiative provides a platform for Governments and the private sector to identify low-carbon business opportunities, cooperate on net-zero technology innovation and exchange knowledge on sectoral roadmaps for hard-to-abate sectors.

India's effort in innovation for climate action and sustainable development will be closely linked to its developmental vision for mid-century, and India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India in the industrial, especially manufacturing, sector. The Government launched Startup India initiative on 16th January, 2016 with an aim to build a stronger ecosystem for nurturing India's startup culture that would further drive our economic growth, support entrepreneurship, and enable large-scale employment opportunities.

Similarly, innovation is reflected in Green Hydrogen Mission of MNRE(MNRE). Green Hydrogen is the Hydrogen that is produced using renewable energy, including, but not limited to, production through electrolysis or conversion of biomass. This process results in a clean and emission-free fuel that has immense potential to replace fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions.

On 4th January 2023, the Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The overarching objective of the Mission is to make India a global hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
