

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 302
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2017

Damage to Ozone Layer

302. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

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

- (a) whether researches have established that the Ozone layer is being damaged as 200 billion tonnes of additional carbon-oxide is dissolving in the atmosphere every year due to indiscriminate cutting of forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps/measures being taken by the Government to protect the ozone layer?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b): No Sir.

The Montreal Protocol under Vienna Convention is responsible for protection of Ozone Layer. The depletion of Ozone Layer is due to the manmade chemicals containing chlorine and bromine atoms under the extremely low temperature. These chemicals are used as refrigerants in air conditioning, blowing agents in foam industry, aerosol in fire extinguishers, solvents in different industries, and fumigants in agriculture and plant protection. The depletion of Ozone Layer is not caused by Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) as CO₂ is not Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS), but it is a Green House Gas responsible for global warming.

(c) The Ministry has notified on 19.07.2000 in the Gazette of India the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The above ODS Rules have been amended in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2014 to align with the phase-out schedule of the various ODSs as per the Montreal Protocol. The country has successfully met all the targets of phase out of ozone depleting substances. The world has phased out 97 percent of the ozone depleting substances. The successful achievements of targets under Montreal Protocol by all the signatory countries, the scientists have recorded and reported in June, 2016 an improvement in healing of ozone hole.
