

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 19
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2017

Deaths due to Climate Change

19. SHRI SANJAY HARIBHAU JADHAV:
SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of any latest assessment by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which shows that climate change is likely to kill 250,000 more people each year by 2030 to which India is expected to contribute significantly to these deaths to be caused by malaria, diarrhoeal disease, heat stress and malnutrition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether climate change is already causing thousands of deaths every year due to increased frequency of epidemics and extreme weather events such as cloudburst, floods and heat waves;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) The Government is aware of a Report of the WHO titled, “Quantitative risk assessment of the effects of climate change on selected causes of death, 2030s and 2050s.” However, the Report does not contain any detailed analysis specifically for India.
- (c) & (d) The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment report (2014) highlights that mean surface temperature of the globe has risen by 0.85 degree Celsius \pm 0.18 degree Celsius. However, all India mean temperature has risen around 0.64 degree Celsius over the last 110 years, which may contribute to extreme weather events. Climate Change adds to the existing stresses and it is difficult to establish direct and specific correlation / causation between these events and climate change.
- (e) The Government has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in June 2008 to deal with the issues related to climate change. NAPCC comprises eight missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. Thirty two States and Union Territories (UTs) have also prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) consistent with the objectives of NAPCC, highlighting State specific issues relating to Climate Change.

Climate Change mitigation requires action on a global level. Government of India, despite having no binding obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), announced its voluntary goal to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its Emissions Gap Report 2017, has recognized India as one of the countries on track to achieving its voluntary goal. Government of India has also embarked upon ambitious actions in the areas of renewable energy, afforestation, energy efficiency, planned urban development etc.

A new Mission on Climate Change and Health has been added. A National Expert Group on Climate Change and Health has been subsequently constituted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the issues related to adverse effects of Climate Change on human Health through appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures, which are being strengthened.
