

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3048
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

COP 26

3048. PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNAVIKHE PATIL:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether the Government has planned any strategies to make India a carbon neutral region by 2070 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether this cut on carbon usage would affect the growth of the country from a developing to developed nation;
- (c) whether the Government can provide the data on the development of carbon cutting fuels and technologies for this target to be achieved in COP 26; and;
- (d) whether new forest areas have been declared for reducing carbon usage in the nation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) India has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) on 26th August 2022 and its long-term low carbon development strategy on 14th November 2022. These documents lay out India's vision and approaches towards reaching net zero by 2070. India's long term strategy rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways which are (i) Low carbon development of electricity systems consistent with enhanced development benefits; (ii) Develop an integrated, efficient, inclusive low-carbon transport system; (iii) Promoting 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) Enhancement of forest and vegetative cover consistent with socio-economic and ecological considerations; (vii) Economic and financial aspects of low-carbon development.

As per the decisions of UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, NDCs and Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) are determined by countries. India's NDC and the Long Term Strategy have been prepared in accordance with the principles of equity and

Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) in the light of different national circumstances. India's strategy has been prepared in the framework of India's right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget, which is the practical implementation of India's call for "climate justice." This is essential to ensure that there are no constraints on realizing India's vision of rapid growth and economic transformation, while protecting the environment.

As per the strategy, India's vision of low carbon development is based on the need to ensure India's high energy needs for development, including poverty eradication, achieving Sustainable Development Goals and economic growth. Further, it is necessary that the plan for the country's energy security is based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and rational utilization of fossil fuel resources. Specific steps for such utilization include, inter alia, expanding renewables and strengthening the grid and focusing on demand side management. The long-term strategy document also provides for a non-exhaustive list of technology needs.

(d) Tree plantation, being a multi-departmental, multi-agency activity, has been taken up in cross sectoral manner under various programmes/funding sources of Ministries concerned and also through State Plans. India is on track to achieve its commitment of creating additional carbon sink through implementation of various ongoing schemes and programmes from the National to local levels.

The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is being implemented for afforestation of degraded forest lands. National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the national missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change that is being implemented to protect, restore and enhance forest cover in India. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) is one of the programmes to promote afforestation, forest regeneration and ensure maintenance of ecosystem services. The Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) is being implemented to create 400 'Nagar Vans' and 200 Nagar Vatikas in the vicinity of urban areas under the National Fund of CAMPA. The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aims at creating and upgrading green spaces, parks and recreation centres in Mission cities.
