

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

943. SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY:
SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

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

- (a) whether India hosted 14th meeting of Conference of Parties to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the agenda of the summit;
- (c) the total number of delegates from different countries participated in the summit;
- (d) the issues discussed and the outcome of the summit including the benefits for India as a result;
- (e) whether the Government has been able to achieve the target of restoring land which are degraded in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the other corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) Yes sir.
- (b) The 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) was hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India. at India Expo Mart Limited, Greater Noida from 2nd to 13th September 2019. India is now Conference of Parties (COP 14) President for the next two years (2019-2021). The fourteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 14) comprised of the fourteenth meeting of Committee on Science and Technology (CST 14) (agenda **annexed at Ia**), eighteenth meeting of the

Committee to Review the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 18) (agenda **annexed at Ib**) and

- (c) fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 14) (agenda **annexed at Ic**) for your reference.
- (d) About 5759 delegates from different countries including India participated in the Conference of Parties (COP 14) summit.
- (e) The Conference of Parties (COP 14) had several deliberations and adopted 35 decisions, including on how to implement thematic policy frameworks addressing land degradation, drought, gender, sand and dust storms, desertification, involvement of private sector, migration and land tenure. The Hon'ble Prime Minister made the following announcements among others:
 - i. Setting up a Centre for Excellence in India at the Indian Council for Forest Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun for enhanced South-South Co-operation that aims to share India's expertise of sustainable land management strategies with other developing countries;
 - ii. Raise India's ambition of the total area that would be restored from its land degradation status, from 21 million hectares (stated as Bonn Challenge target) to 26 million hectares between now and 2030;
 - iii. India's expertise may offer resources in space and remote sensing technology can be offered to member countries who wish to manage their land degradation programmes through cutting-edge technology.
- (f) India has committed to achieve land degradation neutrality status by 2030. As mentioned above, India announced that it will raise its ambition to restore degraded land from 21 million hectares (mha) to 26 mha by 2030.

Annexure Ia

S. No.	Important agenda items – Committee on Science and Technology
1.	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from guidance for the implementation of land degradation neutrality.
2.	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from guidance for the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation.
3.	Policy-oriented recommendations resulting from the cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies.
4.	Interfacing science and policy: The Science-Policy Interface, the dissemination and accessibility of best practices.
5.	Outcomes of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on a monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought.

Annexure Ib

S. No.	Important agenda items – Committee to Review the Implementation of the Convention
1.	Outcomes of the Committee on Science and Technology on a monitoring framework for the strategic objective on drought.
2.	Update on the Global Support Programme (GSP) in support of UNCCD reporting.
3.	Progress made on mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention Parties.
4.	Promotion of capacity building to further the implementation of the Convention.

Annexure Ic

S. No.	Important agenda items – Conference of Parties
1.	Integration of the Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Land Degradation Neutrality.
2.	Midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.
3.	Progress in the implementation of the UNCCD communication plan and on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).
4.	Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies.
5.	Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
6.	Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
7.	Follow-up on policy frameworks and thematic issues: Drought, Sand and Dust Storms and Gender.
8.	Addressing desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration.
9.	New and emerging issues – “Land tenure”
10.	Special segment includes roundtables on land, climate and renewable energy; rural and urban communities, ecosystem restoration and interactive dialogues on land stewardship; healthy land – healthy people and sustainable value chains for land-based business.