

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2029
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Conservation of the Environment

2029. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that environmental priorities were affected due to the spread of the deadly corona virus and its socio-economic impact on the nation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy devised by the Government for handling environmental deterioration and exploitation in the aftermath of Corona pandemic;
- (c) whether the Government has made any plans to re-start a large-scale public awareness programme for the conservation of the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): The Ministry has issued two notifications vide S.O. 4254(E) dated 27.11.2020 and S.O. 221(E) dated 18.01.2021 for extending the validity of EC for the projects which were stalled due to the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic and its subsequent control measures. The Ministry has also issued an OM dated 14.09.2020 regarding conducting public hearing during the pandemic restrictions which are readily available in the Ministry's Website: <http://moef.gov.in/e-citizen/circulars-orders-guidelines/circulars-2/>.

Further, the Ministry has developed robust virtual platform to generate awareness among public including students, local entrepreneurs, community etc. through conducting online webinars, training programmes, stakeholder meetings and other meetings. The success stories are also uploaded in the Ministry's social media platforms under the respective organizations/bodies and institutes.

The Ministry is already implementing the Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme since year 1983-84. This scheme aims to promote environmental awareness and mobilize student's participation for environment conservation. The objectives of the scheme are achieved through programmes namely National Green Corps (NGC) – "Eco club" Programme, National Nature Camping Programme (NNCP) and Capacity Building Activities (CBA). Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about 1.6 lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly forty lakh students are actively participating in mass various awareness programmes on various environmental issues. The Ministry has launched the Green Good Deed (GGDs) movement in January 2018 as a social movement with the

aim to bring about mass environmental awareness in the society at all levels. The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by means of plantation activities in forest and non-forest areas for various environmental protection.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under this Ministry organizes Mass Awareness Programme through Exhibitions, printed Literature, Advertisement in National Dailies and Public Notices for dissemination of information for control of pollution every year. CPCB released a Public Notice on the occasion of Diwali Festival through CPCB's website.
