

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3653**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

**Metrics used by EPI**

3653. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that India performed poorly on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) with a score of 18.90;
- (b) whether the Government conduct its own evaluation of the metrics used by EPI, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government can list its plans for progress for the next five years on the metrics used by EPI?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c)The report on Environmental Performance Index 2022 prepared by researchers at Yale University and Columbia University has drawn conclusions about countries with respect to their environmental health, ecosystem vitality and Climate Change related policy based on metrics with several parameters that are unscientific and subjective

For instance, the indicator “Projected Emission levels in 2050” under the “Climate Change Policy objective” is computed on the basis of average rate of change in emission of the last 10 years instead of modelling that takes into account a longer time period, extent of renewable energy capacity and use, additional carbon sinks, energy efficiency etc. of respective countries. Fig 1 of the said report, based on Global Carbon Budget 2021 itself shows that India has one of the lowest emission trajectories vis a vis other countries. Also, the above parameter has a weight of nearly 14% in the index vis a vis an equity based indicator like GHG emission per capita with a weight of only 1%.

This shows that the methodology used in the EPI ranking suffers from many discrepancies including inter alia no specific rationale for weightage assigned to indicators, a flawed model to compute parameters like projected emissions where carbon removals are not accounted for and absence of important parameters of sustainability like energy efficiency or indicators that truly capture ecosystem productivity.

The government has action plans in place which aims to improve the performance of the country on many measures of policy objectives of Climate Change, Environmental Health and Biodiversity and Habitat which are covered in EPI.

The National Clean Air Programme has been launched for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2019 as the base year. Under NCAP, City Specific Clean Air Action Plans focusing on short/ medium/ long term actions to control air pollution from different sources have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million plus cities.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) approved by the Cabinet for submission by India to UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement include the following: -

1. To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE'- 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change.
2. To adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.
3. To reduce the Emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level.
4. To achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030, with the help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF).
5. To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
6. To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.
7. To mobilize domestic and new & additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resources required and the resource gap.
8. To build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting edge climate change technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

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