

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

Climate Change

198. SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:
SMT. MALA ROY:
DR. KALYAN VAIJINATHRAO KALE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the issue of climate change across the country, if so, the main reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the temperature of earth is increasing every year by one degree due to globe warming and deforestation, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to make likely environment which will be suitable for human being and also good for cultivation;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan for more plantations in the country to save the earth from ultraviolet rays and excess sun rays, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has commenced working on any scheme for environmental protection and promotion in the State of Rajasthan, if so, the district-wise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of specific plans for climate adaptation to protect vulnerable communities from increasing climate change impacts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) and (b) As per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Cycle Synthesis Report released in 2023, human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming, with the global mean surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850–1900 level in the decade 2011–2020. Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) notes that the largest share of the historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated

in developed countries, that per capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low, and that the share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs.

The Government of India is aware of and committed to addressing the challenges of climate change. India's Third National Communication submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2023 reported that India is experiencing a full range of climate change impacts.

(c) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to protect and conserve the ecosystem, including steps to combat climate change. India has achieved two primary goals of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) laid down in 2015 and updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2022, and enhanced its target of cumulative electric power installed capacity through non-fossil fuel to 50% by 2030 and to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 as compared to 2005 levels. The Government of India has also included a non-quantitative target in the updated NDC, namely LiFE- 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change by involving people's everyday actions. Besides, India has also prepared and submitted to UNFCCC its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) with a target to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

The Government of India is also implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, green India, human health, and strategic knowledge on climate change. The respective nodal Ministries implement these Missions. One of the Missions, the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), aims to make the agriculture sector more resilient to the changing climate. The Government of India is also implementing a network project, namely National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), which aims to study the impact of climate change on agriculture, including crops, and promote climate resilient technologies to cope with weather extremes.

(d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change is implementing various programs and schemes that encourage tree plantation in the country. The National Mission for Green India (GIM), one of the missions under NAPCC, aims to protect, restore, and enhance India's forest cover and respond to climate change by undertaking plantation activities in forest and non-forest areas through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), which include local communities. The Ministry is also implementing the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) with the primary objective of creating forest/ green spaces in urban areas by developing Nagar Van/ Vatikas with a view to protecting forest land within cities/towns. The School Nursery Yojana aims to provide an environment for the students to understand and appreciate the significance of plants in maintaining and sustaining the natural ecosystem.

The Ministry has also requested States and Union Territories to take up plantation activities under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on World Environment Day on June 5, 2024. The Ministry has met its goal of planting 80 crore seedlings under the campaign before the deadline.

(e) The Ministry has taken various steps to conserve, sustain, and protect the environment, including implementing specific schemes on a Pan-India basis. The details of central assistance provided to the State of Rajasthan from time to time, under some crucial schemes of the Ministry, are as follows:

- i. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) includes five cities of Rajasthan State, namely, Alwar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Udaipur. These cities have been provided a total amount of ₹610.25 crore till date to implement City Action Plans to address air pollution;
- ii. Under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change, a grant of ₹ 22.48 crore was sanctioned for the project titled 'Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyaan for Climate Change Adaptation and Water Harvesting in Anandpuri, Arthuna and Sajjangarh blocks of District Banswara' and the project has been completed;
- iii. Under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) for the conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Ministry has sanctioned ₹ 146.165 crore as the central share for the conservation and management of seven wetlands/lakes in five districts, namely, Ajmer, Jaipur, Mount Abu, Nagour and Udaipur.
- iv. Under the Nagar Van Yojana, the Ministry has sanctioned twenty-three projects with a total cost of ₹32.5748 crores in 14 districts of the State of Rajasthan, namely, Ajmer, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Churu, Dausa, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Kota, Rajsamand, Sriganganagar and Udaipur.

(f) The Government of India recognizes adaptation is inevitable and imperative for its development process and has been undertaking several initiatives to mainstream adaptation efforts through various schemes/ projects/programs of several Ministries viz. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, etc., to improve adaptive capacities and reducing socio-economic vulnerabilities of the people. Further, six out of nine missions under NAPCC focus on adaptation in water, habitat, agriculture, Himalayan ecosystem, human health, and strategic knowledge on climate change. Thirty-four States and UTs have prepared their respective State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). The SAPCCs are designed to be context specific, and inter-alia, provides for adaptation strategies considering different ecological, social, and economic conditions of each State.
