

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1182**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

**Impact of Climate Change**

1182. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that increasing deforestation, air pollution, and erratic climate patterns are affecting public health, agriculture, and local livelihoods;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken to protect forest cover, promote sustainable development, and tackle the impact of climate change at the community level; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) The Government has taken a number of steps to protect forest cover, promote sustainable development, and tackle the impact of climate change which include the following:
  - (i) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) implements a range of flagship schemes and programmes, including the National Mission for a Green India, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Nagar Van Yojana, Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). These initiatives support the efforts of States and Union Territories in ecological restoration through afforestation within and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures, and biodiversity protection.
  - (ii) To foster public participation in afforestation, the Ministry has also launched the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign. This initiative encourages individuals to plant a tree in honour of their mothers, promoting emotional connection with nature. It serves as a symbolic gesture of gratitude while strengthening community involvement in environmental conservation.

- (iii) India's forest and tree cover has shown a consistent increase, currently covering 25.17% of the country's total geographical area. Between 2005 and 2021, an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent has been created, significantly contributing to the country's climate change mitigation goals.
- (iv) The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), launched by MoEF&CC in January 2019, targets air quality improvement in 130 non-attainment and Million Plus Cities across 24 States/UTs. It is a multi-sectoral initiative involving Central and State Governments, ULBs, and other stakeholders. NCAP emphasizes source-specific mitigation through city, state, and national-level action plans. It mobilizes resources from various Central schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, Smart City Mission, and others, along with state and local support. A performance-based grant of ₹13,036.52 crore has been allocated to 130 cities/ULBs for implementing air quality measures.
- (v) The Government of India has developed the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises Missions in specific areas. Six out of nine Missions under NAPCC focus on adaptation in water, habitat, agriculture, the Himalayan ecosystem, human health, and strategic knowledge of climate change. All these Missions focus on strategies to combat the adverse impacts of climate change, and, are institutionalized and implemented by the respective Nodal Ministries/Departments. Further, 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, provide adaptation strategies considering each State's different ecological, social, and economic conditions.
- (vi) The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) has been established to support adaptation activities in the States and UTs that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- (vii) India has progressively continued decoupling economic growth from Green House Gas emissions. Between 2005 and 2020, India's gross domestic product emission intensity reduced by 36%.
- (viii) India's Long Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy provides a framework involving seven key strategic transitions for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, equity, and climate justice. These include:
  - low-carbon development of electricity systems consistent with development;
  - develop an integrated, efficient and inclusive transport system;
  - promote adaptation in urban design, energy and material efficiency in buildings, and sustainable urbanization;
  - promoting economy-wide decoupling of growth from

emissions and development of an efficient, innovative low emission industrial system;

- development of carbon dioxide removal and related engineering solutions;
- enhancing forest and vegetation cover consistent with socio-economic and ecological considerations;and
- economic and financial needs of low-carbon development.

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