

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 835**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.03.2016

**Emission of Methane**

835. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

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

- (a) the Government's view on India's methane emission and its contribution to climate change;
- (b) whether the Government has put in place a regulatory framework for governing methane emissions from the farm sector, waste disposal and landfills and other such sectors from which methane emissions occur;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the per capita methane emission of India in comparison to the United States, European Union, China and New Zealand?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) As per India's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016, methane emissions in 2010 was 19.776 million tonnes which is around 22.03 % of the total Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in term of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub> eq). India does not have legally binding emission reduction commitments with regard to reducing GHG, however in its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to UNFCCC in October 2015, India has intended to reduce emission intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level. Major contributors of methane emissions are agriculture sector (enteric fermentation, rice cultivation), waste sector (wastewater, landfills) and energy sector (coal mining, oil & natural gas drilling).
- (b) & (c) The Government of India, under the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 has notified the level of Methane emission at landfill sites not to exceed 25 per cent (equivalent to 650 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) of the lower explosive limit (LEL).
- (d) Per capita methane emission in 2010 of India, USA and New Zealand was 0.34 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq, 1.87 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq and 6.54 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq respectively. Data for European Union and China for year 2010 is not available. However, per capita methane emission of China in 2005 was 0.71 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> eq and for European Union in 2012 was 0.94 tonnes CO<sub>4</sub> eq. Data for calculating per capita methane emission of India is taken from India's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) Page-59 and for the United States of America, New Zealand and China data are taken from UNFCCC's GHG database while that of the European Union is taken from its biennial reporting common tabular format (BR CTF) and 6<sup>th</sup> National Communication.

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