

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:407

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002

KYOTO PROTOCOL

RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

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

(a) whether the Government have welcomed the US Policy on climate change opposing the Kyoto Protocol, the policy which has all along been opposed by India as a pioneer of the cause of the developing world;

(b) if so, the details of the Kyoto Protocol and the stand taken by the US in this regard indicating the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the manner and extent to which the US stand is likely to affect the global environment and the emission of Green House Gas level on the global ecology and atmosphere?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 4(SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY AND SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE REGARDING KYOTO PROTOCOL

(a) to (c) : India has not welcomed US opposition to Kyoto Protocol and would continue to work with the international community in furtherance of the Bonn Agreement and Marrakech Accord for early ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. There has been no change in India's policy on climate change which is based on maintenance of present equilibrium of commitments and differentiation between developed and developing countries with no new commitments for the developing countries.

The Kyoto Protocol commits the developed countries to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by an average of 5.2 % below 1990 levels during 2008-2012. It also provides for three mechanisms, i.e. Joint Implementation, Clean Development Mechanism and Emission Trading that enable the developed countries with quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments to acquire greenhouse gas reduction credits from outside their own boundaries at relatively lesser costs to facilitate compliance with the greenhouse limitation and reduction commitments. It further provides for a compliance mechanism to address cases of non-compliance with the provisions of Protocol. The United States of America has expressed its opposition to Kyoto Protocol on the grounds of economic burden it would impose on its economy, exemption of major developing countries like India and China from specific commitments and scientific uncertainty.

United States of America is the largest emitter of green house gases in the world. In 1990, it alone accounted for over 36% of developed country emissions and its emissions have continued to grow. The Kyoto Protocol provides for emission reduction commitment of 7% for the United States with reference to 1990. The opposition of United States to Kyoto Protocol would adversely effect global efforts to reduce green house gas emissions and combat climate change.