

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
KYOTO PROTOCOL
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has welcomed the U.S. Policy on climate change thereby reversing its stand on Kyoto Protocol;
- (b) if so, the details of the Kyoto protocol, the stand taken by the U.S. thereon and the Government's decision in regard thereto; and
- (c) the extent to which the U.S. Policy would affect the global environment and the emission of Green House Gas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) There is no change in India's stand on the Kyoto Protocol. India has welcomed the positive elements in President George Bush's statement of February 14, 2002 on Clear Skies and Global Climate Change Initiatives, particularly his emphasis on the links between economic growth, prosperity and environmental protection; and on capacity building through cooperation, rather than imposing impractical and unrealistic targets on developing countries.

(b) The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in December 1997 to strengthen the emissions reduction commitments of the industrialized countries. Recognising that developed countries are the largest emitters of greenhouse gases resulting in climate change, the burden of the reduction was placed on them. No commitments were set out for developing countries, whose share in global emissions will have to grow in order to meet their social and developmental needs. The United States wants developing country emitters such as China and India to shoulder part of the reduction obligations.

India believes that it is not the aggregate national value but the per capita level, which correctly defines a country's contribution to the global greenhouse gas emissions and that the present equilibrium of commitments between developed and developing countries has to be maintained.

(c) U.S. withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol is a setback to the climate change negotiations.