

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:293
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has lately submitted a report to the United Nations on the issue of climate changes and earth-warming which are likely to cause enormous shift in the monsoon patterns all the way upto 2050:

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the main recommendations and suggestions made in the report and the response of United Nations thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A RAJA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 293 FOR 16.8.2004 REGARDING REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGES

(a) to (c): India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, Parties are required to communicate to the Conference of Parties, the supreme body of the Convention, information on implementation of the Convention. The Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is the nodal Ministry for the subject of climate change, has, towards fulfillment of obligations under the Convention submitted on behalf of the Government of India, a report entitled `India`s Initial National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change` to Climate Change Secretariat on June 22, 2004. The Initial National Communication contains information on India`s emissions of greenhouse gases due to human activities at 1994 level, Vulnerability assessment of key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, health, infrastructure, industry, natural ecosystems, coastal zones to projected climate change; Programmes related to sustainable development; Research and systematic observations; and constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs in the area of climate change.

In 1994, the aggregate greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in India amounted to 793 million tons of carbon dioxide; 18 million tons of methane and 0.178 million tons of nitrous oxide; and constitutes about 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The contributions of the USA, Japan, Germany and UK to the global emission in 1994 were 20%, 5%, 4% and 2% respectively. However, India`s per capita emissions were 4% of USA, 8% of Germany, 9% of UK, 10% of Japan and 23% of Global average.

The projected climate change scenarios indicate increase in and variable trend of both rainfall and temperature into 21st century. It is projected that quantity of surface run off due to climate change would reduce and vary across the river basins as well as sub basins. The initial analysis has revealed that climate change may have adverse effects in terms of severity of droughts and intensity of floods in various parts of the country. Forest biomass in India seem to be highly vulnerable to the projected change in climate. Coastal areas are also vulnerable to climate variability in varying degrees. As such no specific response of the United Nations is expected, however, the report has been well received both in the national and international community.