

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2426  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006  
INDISCRIMINATE EXPLORATION  
Chowdhury Shri Bansagopal

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

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- (a) whether the Government is aware of the impact of indiscriminate exploration of limited fossil fuels and hydrocarbon reserves on the economy and environment;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken to prevent the Global Warming?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b) Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, environmental clearance has been made mandatory for proposals regarding exploration for oil and gas and their production, transportation and storage with investment above Rs.100 crore. Based on the Environmental Impact Assessment of such projects, environmental management plan is prepared for mitigation of impact due to exploratory activities. Standards have been prescribed for discharge of effluent from on shore and offshore exploratory activities. Guidelines for discharge of gaseous emissions, disposal of drill cutting and drilling fluids from offshore and onshore drilling operations have been notified vide GSR 546 (E), dated 30th August, 2005. The project authorities are advised to comply with the above guidelines for disposal of solid waste, drill cutting and drilling fluids for off shore and on shore drilling operation.

(c) India is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate changes. The Government has taken several steps to address green house gas emissions responsible for global warming. These include energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy.