

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1541

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

G-8 SUMMIT

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has participated in G-8 Summit held in Germany;
- (b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein including the stand taken by India on key global issues;
- (c) the declaration of G-8 Summit and its impact on emerging economics of the developing countries;
- (d) whether several G-8 Members opposed a full membership to developing countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether India was disappointed with the format adopted by the G-8;
- (g) whether India had put across the concerns of the G-5 developing countries to the G-8;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the response of the G-8?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(i) The Prime Minister attended the Summit Meeting of the G8 and the five Outreach countries (Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa) at Heiligendamm, Germany on 8 June 2007.

Prime Minister spoke on the issue of climate change, energy efficiency, and the conclusion of the Doha round of talks. Prime Minister's intervention on the issue of climate change at the Heiligendamm meeting is enclosed as an annexure. Prime Minister emphasised the need to ensure that growth and development prospects in developing countries are not undermined or constrained in any manner. The G8 and the five Outreach countries have agreed on launching a high level dialogue, covering

- (a) Promoting and protecting innovation;
- (b) Enhancing freedom of investment through an open investment environment including strengthening corporate social responsibility principles;
- (c) Sharing knowledge for improving energy efficiency and technology cooperation with the aim to contribute to reducing CO₂-emissions, consistent with the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, and the St. Petersburg Plan of Action on Global Energy Security; and
- (d) Defining common responsibilities for development with special regard to Africa.

There was no discussion on membership of developing countries.

The five Outreach countries also brought out a joint position paper covering issues such as economic development, global governance, international trade, international migration, climate change and South-South cooperation.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY PARTS (A)-(I) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1541 REGARDING 'G-8 SUMMIT' FOR ANSWER ON 22.08.2007

PM's intervention on Climate Change at the Heiligendamm meeting

Madam Chancellor,

I must thank you for raising this issue, of such significance for our future generations and us. Your ideas, and those of PM Blair, President Bush and PM Abe are very useful for us to have a constructive discussion today.

We all have a vested interest in making our planet secure for our children and grand children.

India's GHG emissions are among the lowest in per capita terms. Moreover, being only around 4% of the world's emissions, action by us will have a marginal effect on overall emissions.

Nonetheless, we recognize wholeheartedly our responsibility as a developing country. We wish to engage constructively and productively with the international community and to add our weight to global efforts to preserve and protect the environment.

We are determined that India's per-capita GHG emissions are not going to exceed those of developed countries even while pursuing policies of development and economic growth.

We must work together to find pragmatic, practical solutions, which are for the benefit of entire humankind.

These should include mitigation and adaptation strategies with fair burden sharing and measures to realize sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The process of burden sharing must be fair. It should take into account where the primary responsibility for the present levels of GHG concentration rests and not perpetuate poverty among the developing countries. No strategy should foreclose for them the possibilities of accelerated social and economic development.

The principle of common and differentiated responsibility and respective capability is very important.

The time is not ripe for developing countries to take quantitative targets, as these would be counter-productive on their development processes.

Adaptation is the key for developing countries. It needs to be adequately resourced without detracting funds meant for development, which, in any case, is the best form of adaptation.

The determination of any particular stabilization goal and the time frame in which it should be achieved needs to be made at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This should be preceded by a scientific consensus on impacts at different levels of GHG going beyond the current IPCC findings, which still document many uncertainties.

It is important that critical and promising clean technologies are made affordable for developing countries, where there is a large reliance on fossil fuels.

The IPR regime should balance rewards for innovators with common good for humankind.

We also believe that the carbon market has a significant role to play in tackling climate change and that we should spur private sector involvement in climate related technologies and investment.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) has worked well and needs to be expanded to include approvals for programmatic approaches. Enhanced level of GHG abatement commitments by the developed countries would significantly stimulate CDM projects.

Let us leave Heiligendamm determined to continue our exchanges and to invigorate the existing for a where these issues are being negotiated. In the meantime, our representatives could continue informal discussions to carry forward our dialogue and to build on what we believe in common.

Thank you.
Berlin
8 June 2007