

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:753
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
CLIMATE CHANGE
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the one-day debate on climate change, with more than 150 nations participating to prepare the ground for launching negotiations on an agreement to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the international accord that limits the emissions of greenhouse gases, was held in the month of October, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main decisions taken in the meeting;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to contain the adverse effects of climate change on India; and
- (d) if so, the help and assistance being sought from UN in meeting the climate change effects?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A day long High-Level event "The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change" was convened on 24 September 2007 by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Indian delegation was led by Shri P.Chidambaram, Hon'ble Finance Minister. Hon'ble Finance Minister informed the world leaders that India's per capita consumption of energy and emission of CO₂ are amongst the lowest in the World. He also highlighted the efforts being made by India supportive of sustainable and clean development. During the deliberations, the World Leaders accepted that climate change is happening largely by human activity and additional resources, including transfer of clean technologies, are required to be provided to Developing Countries for adaptation, mitigations and sustainable development. It was also mentioned that Climate Change should be dealt based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and any action requirement has to be commensurate to the respective capabilities. It was also emphasised that the only forum where the issue of Climate Change can be decided upon is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A need was also felt to strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol. The World Leaders also hoped that intense negotiations would be held in the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC, to be held in December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia, for a post 2012 agreement.

(c) & (d): India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, as also various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. India has been pressing hard that as per the requirements of Kyoto Protocol the Annex-I developed countries should take deeper and longer commitments for the second phase of Kyoto Protocol. Further, India is actively participating in the Climate Change dialogue and at the Adhoc Working Group discussions coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat. In these negotiations, India has been pressing that 'Adaptation Fund' under the Kyoto Protocol should be operationalised at the earliest.

While India does not have any Green House Gases (GHG) abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programs help mitigate climate change. These include:

- 1) Improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- 2) Power sector reforms
- 3) Promoting hydro and renewable energy
- 4) Promotion of clean coal technologies
- 5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
- 6) Afforestation and conservation of forests
- 7) Reduction of gas flaring
- 8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
- 9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems
- 10) Environmental quality management

Besides, India spends every year over 2 percent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content.

The Government has set up "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change". The Terms of Reference of the proposed Committee are:

- (a) To study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India.

(b) To identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

(c) Any other matter relevant to (a) and (b) above.

Further, a Council on Climate Change, chaired by Prime Minister, has been set up. This Council shall coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The focus of the Committee would be to:

- i. Evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level;
- ii. Provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change;
- iii. Periodically monitor key policy decisions.