

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2885

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY

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

- (a) whether the formulation of National Environment Policy for reform and to harmonize the demands of development and environment has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the mechanism to monitor the implementation of the policy;
- (d) the targets fixed and achievements made by the Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The National Environment Policy was approved by the Union Cabinet on 18.5.2006 and it is available on the website <http://www.envfor.nic.in> of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(b) The National Environment Policy, 2006 is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution, it recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The National Environment Policy is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environment challenges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indications of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review. The broad objectives of the policy are: conservation of critical environmental resources, intra generational equity, livelihood security for the poor, inter-generational equity, integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development, efficiency in environmental resource use, improved environmental governance and enhancement of resources for environmental conservation.

(c) to (e): No specific targets were required to be fixed under the National Environment Policy (NEP) during the 10th Five Year Plan. However, in pursuance of the objectives of the NEP, each Ministry/Department of the Central Government is required to prepare action plans in their respective areas containing specific legislation, programmes and schemes, for implementation of the Policy and the State Governments/UT Administrations would undertake similar actions. The schemes /programmes prepared by the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government under their respective Annual Plans, with both financial and physical targets, are approved by the Planning Commission, ensuring that the environmental concerns expressed in the National Environment Policy are appropriately integrated in such sectoral development plans.