

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:82
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Mani Shri Jose K.;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) the salient features of the discussions and decisions taken in the recently concluded United Nations Climate Change Conference, 2009 held in Copenhagen;
- (b) the implications of the decisions on our country;
- (c) whether any action plan has been drawn including quantified emissions targets or domestic mitigation actions in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in response to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 82 to be answered on 3.3.2010 regarding Conference on Climate Change" raised by Shri Jose K. Mani and Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao:

The 15th Conference of the Parties (CoP 15) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Copenhagen from 7-18 December, 2009. The negotiations at Copenhagen Climate Change Conference could not reach an outcome, as mandated by the Bali Action Plan, in December 2007. At Copenhagen, it was decided that negotiations under the Adhoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) and Adhoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) will continue for another year and reach a conclusion at the 16th Conference of Parties in December 2010. However, at Copenhagen, few Parties including India participated in an informal discussion at the initiative of COP President that produced a text called 'Copenhagen Accord'. The Accord could not be adopted by Parties and was only 'noted' by them.

The decisions taken at Copenhagen have ensured that the climate change negotiations continue to proceed in two tracks as mandated under the Bali Action Plan and the Kyoto Protocol in order to reach outcomes in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. The Copenhagen Accord, on the other hand, reflects a political understanding reached amongst a select group of countries on the relevant issues under negotiations. It does not have a legal character of its own and is expected at best to help the two track processes of negotiations. The interest of developing countries like India remains protected in the Decisions taken by the Conference of Parties at Copenhagen.

Following the decisions taken and discussions held at Copenhagen, various countries including India have communicated their quantified emissions targets or domestic mitigation actions as appropriate to UNFCCC Secretariat. India in its submission to the UNFCCC, has indicated that it shall endeavour to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level. Further India's communication states that the proposed domestic actions are voluntary in nature and will not have a legally binding character and the actions will be implemented under the provisions of Art. 4.7 of the UNFCCC.

India's domestic actions will be elaborated through a low carbon sustainable development plan prepared in the course of its Five Year Plans.