

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3915
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS
Tanwar Shri Ashok

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to create awareness in younger generation about environmental consciousness in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also any plan to introduce compulsory subject on environment in schools and colleges to educate about environment and its importance in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment & Forests carries out environmental awareness through existing flagship programme of National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) and National Green Corps (NGC). NEAC engages thousands of participating organizations through Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) across the country to create awareness across stakeholders. National Green Corps programme is a network of about 1,00,000 schools of the country to inculcate environmental awareness and sustainable practices amongst school children. In addition, other programmes include Other Awareness Programme (OAP) and Seminar/Symposium/Workshop/ Conference for creating awareness among people including younger generation across the country.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. In accordance with National Curriculum Framework, 2005, the primary stage of school education includes compulsory subject on "Environment Studies". At the Upper Primary and Secondary Stages of school education, the environment concerns and issues are included at appropriate places in the textbooks and other curricular materials. The syllabus prescribed by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has taken cognizance of environmental problems and introduced elements of Environmental Education for all classes up to secondary level in all its affiliated schools including those located in rural and backward areas of the country. The subject is also transacted through activity and project mode. In respect of higher education sector, universities and other institutions with degree granting powers have autonomy in academic matters and have the freedom to offer any subject or course of study, including in Environmental Education at any level of higher education.