

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5332  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013  
RIO CONFERENCE  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to defend the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) in the forthcoming Rio+20 Summit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to approve the upgradation of the United Nations Environment Programme to a specialised agency status and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government is likely to oppose the new set of Sustainable Development Goals as mandatory and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the delegation is likely to insist for sustaining the original Rio Conference decision in bifurcating the responsibilities of developed and developing countries (CBDR concept); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f): The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20 Summit was held on June 20-22, 2012 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and was attended at the level of Heads of States/Governments by a large number of countries, including India. The concept of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) was defended by India and many other developing countries and was included in the Rio+20 Summit Outcome Document.

The Outcome Document titled "The Future We Want" adopted at the end of the Conference affirms that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development. The Outcome Document affirms the Rio Principles of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1992 including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration.

The Rio+20 Summit also committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, and to promote the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and to serve as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

As per the Outcome Document, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.