

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1618
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
CLIMATE DAMAGING REFRIGERANT GASES
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the United States of America is pushing our country to sign a pact regarding replacing of climate-damaging refrigerant gases with an alternative;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The United States of America (USA), along with some other countries have been submitting proposal for amendment to the Montreal Protocol for phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the ambit of the Montreal Protocol since 2009. HFCs being non-ODSs, India, along with many like-minded Parties to the Montreal Protocol have been opposing the proposed amendment to phase-down of HFCs. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is to phase-out production and consumption of ODSs only for the protection of the ozone layer. Any amendment with respect to HFCs is not within the purview of the Montreal Protocol and raises legal, policy and technical issues. However, USA has been pursuing with India to agree for the amendment proposal for phase-down of HFCs.

As there are no technically proven, economically viable, commercially available and safe non-HFC technologies especially for most of the applications where HFCs are being widely used, India is trying to understand the implications with regard to replacing of climate damaging refrigerants with an alternative. In recent years, some non-HFC technologies with lower-GWP are emerging but most of these are flammable and proprietary.

The USA has been pursuing the amendment for the past five years in spite of Parties to the Montreal Protocol have not agreed to the amendment. Recently, in the Joint Statement during the Prime Minister's Summit Meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington D.C on September 27, 2013, two leaders agreed to immediately convene the India-U.S. Task Force on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) to discuss, inter alia, multilateral approaches that include using the expertise and the institutions of the Montreal Protocol to phase down the consumption and production of HFCs, based on economically-viable and technically feasible alternatives, and include HFCs within the scope of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol for accounting and reporting of emissions.