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Participants : [Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao](#), [Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan](#), [Singh Shri Lakshman](#), [Raja Shri A.](#), [Verma Shri Ravi Prakash](#), [Chander Kumar Shri](#), [Swain Shri M.A.](#), [Kharabela](#), [Prabhu Shri Suresh](#), [Raja Shri A.](#), [Mehta Shri Alok Kumar](#), [Rijju Shri Kiren](#)

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Title : Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia called the attention of the Minister of Environment & Forests to the situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic conditions as reported in UN Development Programmes' Human Development Report and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests to the situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic conditions as reported in the UN Development Programmes' Human Development Report and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): I rise to respond to the Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, hon. MP regarding "Situation arising out of Global Warming affecting India's climatic condition as reported in UN Development Programmes' Human Development Report, and steps taken by the Government in this regard".

It is a fact that Human Development Report 2006 has stated "most models suggest that the monsoon rainfall patterns will change". The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability require a wide range of physical, biological and socio-economic models, methods, tools and data. As such, it is a very complex phenomenon. Monsoon itself is a complex phenomenon. Even though our understanding about monsoon is improving, its complexities are not yet fully understood.

Climate Modeling studies do have their utility in better understanding the potential impacts. However, projected climate change impacts depend not only on the reliability on the climate models, but more importantly, on changes in

atmospheric concentrations of green houses gases, which in turn depend on global emissions pathways, which again depend upon future global economic patterns. As such, we are confronted with profound scientific uncertainties as of today.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 3rd Assessment Report, 2001 has noted that over the period since the industrial revolution, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased from 280 to 368 parts per million. [\[MSOffice28\]](#)

13.00 hrs

While emphasizing the inevitable uncertainty involved, the Panel based on various scenarios, estimated that due to human activities by 2100, carbon dioxide concentration would be in the range between 540 and 970 parts per million. As a result, between 1990 and 2050, global mean temperatures may increase by between 0.8 and 2.6 degree Celsius and by 2200 between 1.4 and 5.8 degree Celsius. In addition, the Panel anticipated changes in the levels of precipitation during the 21st Century, both increase and decrease, depending upon the specific location, in the range observed in the last 50 years can be attributed to human activity. The 4th IPCC Report is still awaited, which would be out next year. It is expected that 4th IPCC Report would reduce the scientific uncertainties to an extent.

For extreme events, there is currently insufficient information to assess recent trends, and climate models currently lack spatial details required to make confident projections. I may add that UNDP report mentions the emerging results of modeling for Asian Monsoons, and not exclusively for Indian monsoon.

In order to meet the global challenge of climate change, international community had adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) In May 1992, which came into force on 21st March 1994 and its Kyoto Protocol, which came into force on 16 February 2005. India is a Party to UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. The objective of the Convention is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level is to be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. UNFCCC recognizes the legitimate need for developing countries for sustained economic growth and poverty alleviation. It must be realized that developing countries, owing to their historical and current low *per capita* levels of GHG emissions, are not responsible for the problem. Abatement of GHG emissions will involve a significant economic cost. The question of global burden sharing in GHG emission mitigation, is thus an accepted concern in the climate change debate.

The Kyoto Protocol is an important agreement because it commits the developed countries, including economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by an average of 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels during 2008-2012. The Kyoto Protocol is the most significant agreement as yet to combat climate change. Although India as a developing country

does not have any mitigation commitments, we are following a sustainable development path, ensuring energy conservation, improved energy efficiency in various sectors and use of renewable energy.

Our development efforts itself could help the poor in adapting to the adverse effects of climate change, including monsoon.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that we would be studying the emerging picture as soon as the 4th IPCC Report is available. The Government is aware of the potential seriousness of the problem of climate change and is undertaking various steps to study, to analyse as also adapt to the emerging situation.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. We are receiving alarming signals and warnings cautioning us about the imminent disastrous effects of global warming on India. According to the World Meteorological Organisation, this past decade from 1996-2005 has been the warmest decade in the history of earth. Therefore, Sir, we have to adapt to climate change irrespective of what we do. It is a phenomenon that we have to come to terms to live with.

Changes in climate and precipitation level impacts several sectors including natural and human systems, from agriculture to water resources, to forestry, to bio-diversity, to healthcare and even to infrastructure. आज यह एक राजनीतिक मुद्दा नहीं है। लेकिन भविष्य को देखते हुए अगले 10-15 सालों में अगर हमने इस पर जागरूकता से काम नहीं किया, तो अंत में चाहे वह व्यक्ति ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में रहता हो या शहरी क्षेत्र में, हरेक व्यक्ति के जन-जीवन पर यह पूरी तरह से प्रभावित होगा। इसलिए यह मुद्दा बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है कि आज हम देश में इस मुद्दे पर चर्चा करें। This matter also directly impacts on the economy of India because 70 per cent of the population is based on agriculture.[\[R29\]](#)

Sir, climate change has equity implications and accordingly it also affects sustainable development. I would like to quote the hon. Minister himself. He quoted from the Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change which says:

“Human induced climate change has a potential to trigger large scale changes in earth systems that could have severe consequences on regional or global scales. The probabilities of triggering such events are poorly understood, but should not be ignored given the severity of their consequences.”

Therefore, the developmental implications of this climate change would be severe and catastrophic. The northern part of our country will experience melting of glaciers thus resulting in a larger flow of water initially into our rivers, but this flow will keep on dwindling not only in terms of volume but also in terms of our being able to recharge the ground water situation. So, we will have problems of water availability and problems of water scarcity.

There will be a reduction of yields across the country from Andhra Pradesh to Chattisgarh and from Madhya Pradesh to Gujarat where it has been proved that if there is a two degree rise or

more in temperature, crop yields from wheat to all other crops will be directly affected. Already we have a plateauing of agriculture yield and productivity and this will even hamper it more. There will also be a greater incidence of pests and insects as they thrive much better in higher temperature environments. Air pollution, desertification and loss of biodiversity will also be on the increase. In addition to this, the regional surface temperature will rise by close to five degree Celsius and 20 per cent rise in summer monsoon will create floods in certain areas and drought in other areas. The hydrological cycle in our country will also be altered. The Krishna, Narmada, Cauvery and Tapti river basins will experience severe drought water stresses on the one side and flood conditions will be experienced in Mahanadi, Godavari and Brahmani river basins on the other side. Due to the temperature rise, our GDP will be affected by close to 0.67 per cent and the sea level rising by 100 cms. will lead to a welfare loss close to \$ 1.3 billion per annum. Malaria, which is already rampant across our country, will increase in States like Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram. The transmission and duration window of this will also increase.

The World Bank study has also found that there is a direct correlation between climate change and farmers' suicides. जो व्यक्ति ठीक से उत्पादन नहीं कर पाता है, वह ऋणदाता के ऊपर मजबूर हो जाता है और फिर उसको आत्महत्या ही करनी पड़ती है। At least a thousand farmers have committed suicide in Vidharba region alone in the past year. Therefore, all across the board we have to fight this scourge. What can we do? In November this year, countries across the world converged on this platform, but the only thing that all the countries did was blame each other. I think it is important for us to look within and attack this problem.

So, we have to look at two routes. One is adaptation. What can we do to change the way we function to adapt to this challenge? The other route is mitigation. How can we lower our energy levels so as to stop this problem? As far as adaptation is concerned, we need to increase the efficiency of water use. About 80 per cent of our water is still used for agricultural purposes and our urban areas still waste a lot of water. Therefore, we need to change the management of our water resources and in this we can learn from Israel which has used drip irrigation extremely effectively. Then, we also need to be able to effectively price our public utilities. Today, electricity or water is not priced effectively in our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Sir, I need your protection. This is a very important matter which needs to be debated in this House at great length because it is going to affect the lives of one billion of our people. Therefore, it is very important that we look at effective pricing of our public utilities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want to discuss this matter at length, you can give a separate notice. In Calling Attention, you can only ask questions.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : I did, Sir. Now, please give me a couple of minutes more.

Sir, we also need to look at research activities. We need to develop new strains of crops that can take greater temperature as well as high salinity levels. We also need to look at crop species that

are better suited for poor farmers. We need to look at enriching the IT base in agriculture information areas and bridge the gap in irrigation potential by strengthening Self Help Groups and Water Users Associations. Most importantly, we need to have an index-based weather risk insurance for agriculture. We need to have more private companies like ICICI-Lombard come out and insure farmers not only against damage but also against less rainfall that is received. This is a new product that is coming to the market and we must make sure that the Government goes ahead with that.^[R30]

As far as mitigation is concerned, we need to either reduce energy intensity or reduction in net CO₂ emissions, which the hon. Minister referred to.

Finally, I would like to ask the hon. Minister a couple of questions. Firstly, are we looking at carbon pricing and taxing in this country? Today, India contributes only three per cent of global green house gases as opposed to 5.2 per cent of the global average and 24 per cent contributed by the US. We have the potential to emerge as the leader to carbon credits among developing countries. So, are we looking at this?

Secondly, what is the policy support of the Government in looking at innovation and deployment of low carbon technology? Thirdly, are we thinking of removing the barriers to entry for energy efficient technologies? Fourthly, the measures that we are taking to inform, educate and persuade the people about the need for carbon free economy?

Lastly, fiscal incentives to promote drip irrigation and investment in cleaner fuel technologies and also look at greater number of projects in the clean development mechanism, for which you have sanctioned a sum of Rs.17,000 crore. I think, this should be increased, at least, to Rs.20,000 crore to Rs.25,000 crore.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, if we want change, we have to mandate that change. As Mahatma Gandhi said: “we have to become the change we want to see in the world”. Therefore, we must move for that change.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Though the rule does not permit, I am allowing a few hon. Members to raise questions only.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, because of this global warming, the rice production has already fallen, the sea food production is also reducing and there has been an overall reduction in glaciers in the Himalayan region from 2077 sq. kms. to 1628 sq. kms. And over all deglaciation of 21 per cent in four decades.

There is every probability that countries like Maldives will submerge under water within some years and a major portion of Bangladesh will also sink. Sir, 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the total fresh water comes from glaciers. If the glaciers fade away, it will affect the hydro electricity generation in States like Himachal Pradesh, Assam and the rest.

13.12 hrs

(Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan *in the Chair*)

Madam, I have got only three questions to put to the hon. Minister. Firstly, what is the Government of India doing to bring in more and more countries under Kyoto Protocol, specifically, how to bring in the United States of America to agree to sign this Protocol.

Secondly, is the Government going to have alternative or eco friendly sources of energy so that there would be less burning of fossil fuels and less emission of green house gases?

Lastly, a number of thermal plants are going to be installed in this country, specifically in my own State Orissa. Yes, we want power to achieve our eight to nine per cent GDP growth annually. But will these thermal plants not add to the global warming? I give you one example. In my State, in a place called Talcher, there is a thermal plant. In the summer season, the temperature goes up to 50 degrees celcius and this time it has gone to 52 degrees celcius. So, what the Government is going to do to see that the thermal power industry improves this technology and cap the heat generated by its units?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Madam, I would just convey to you that we have agreed in the BAC meeting that all these days to accommodate the legislation, we will suspend Lunch Hour so that we can take up the Bills as early as possible. We have all agreed to that. I would request you that after the Calling Attention is over, we may take up legislative business and suspend the Lunch Hour.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I think, the House agrees to that. We will do that.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Always suspending the Lunch Hour is not good.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is good for the health.[\[r32\]](#)

श्री आलोक कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर): सभापति महोदया, ग्लोबल वार्मिंग किसी एक देश की समस्या नहीं है, बल्कि पूरे विश्व की समस्या है। मैं सिंधिया जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने भारत के संदर्भ में इस समस्या की ओर भारत सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। विश्व पैमाने पर विभिन्न विश्व स्तरीय सम्मेलनों में इसकी चर्चा होती रही है, लेकिन इसके उपाय ढूंढने एवं इस पर बहुत गंभीरता से सोचने की जरूरत है।

मैं सरकार से आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि विश्व स्तर के पर्यावरण मंत्रियों, इस क्षेत्र के जो विशेषज्ञ हैं और साइंस एंड टेक्नालोजी मिनिस्टर्स हैं, क्या उन लोगों का कोई सम्मेलन भारत में करने का प्रोग्राम है ताकि समग्र रूप से इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए एक साथ बैठ कर और विश्व में मानवता की रक्षा के लिए कोई सार्थक कदम उठाया जा सके?

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (खीरी) : सभापति महोदया, आपने इस महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर मुझे सवाल पूछने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ। श्री सिंधिया ने बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत किए हैं, फिर भी मैं सदन के सामने एक चीज लाना चाहता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी इसका जबाब दें। दो साल पहले भारत सरकार ने पर्यावरण चेंज पर एक रिपोर्ट जारी की थी। उसमें कहा गया था कि every degree of temperature rise would follow climatic vagaries by 7 per cent and revenue losses up to 13 per cent. यह बहुत ही गंभीर और महत्वपूर्ण बात है। मैं इस तथ्य के प्रकाश में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार ने इस मुद्दे को गंभीरता से लिया है और इस स्थिति का सही मूल्यांकन करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं और क्या हम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग की तरफ बढ़े हैं?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत के योजना आयोग ने इन तथ्यों को गंभीरता से ग्रहण किया है, क्योंकि इनका जन-जीवन पर, कृषि पर भी बहुत गहरा प्रभाव पड़ने वाला है? विशेष तौर पर जो गरीबी हटाने की योजनाएं हमारे देश में चल रही हैं, उन पर तो बहुत ही गहरा प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): From the reply statement it has been acknowledged by the Government that, as such, we are confronted with profound scientific uncertainties as of today. It is a matter of great concern because Government itself is not able to confront the situation on their own.

The second thing is that the time-frame of the International Protocol has not been fixed. So, India has to persuade still those countries which are yet to sign the Protocol of Kyoto because it is the burden of the developed country that we have been bequeathed on.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : No. Only put a question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : According to the greatest scientist Chris Thomas the effects of climatic change should be considered as great threat of bio-diversity as the big three, that is, habitat destruction, invasion by alien species, and over-exploitation of humans. As per science we know that for our ideal climatic condition we have to retain the temperature of our climate to the tune of 15 per cent because 95 per cent of our climate consists of carbon-dioxide and oxygen.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Madam, I am asking question.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: And you should ask a short question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I would like to ask the hon. Minister in charge of Environment. I think, you are aware that 15 per cent temperature is ideal for human activities. If there is no green house gas, the stability of our climate will be reduced to 18° centigrade.

So, I would like to know whether any climatic change has been taking place in India. Have you observed it? Do you have any idea as to what percentage of gas of the green houses being emitted? Do you have any idea about the rate of melting of our glaciers? I would also like to know whether ecological balance, which is ideal for human activity, has been maintained or not. What is the level of melting that is taking place in our glaciers?

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Madam, the bigger danger than that of weapons of mass destruction or that of HIV AIDS is the climatic change, which has probably destroyed the entire humanity, not only humanity but also the biological life of the world, and, therefore, it is a very serious issue.

Madam, I would like to ask some questions to the hon. Minister. This is not his responsibility alone. He is only the Minister of Environment. It is the responsibility of the Energy Ministry, Health Ministry, Agriculture Ministry, and several other Ministries. So, is the Government planning to set up a high-powered institutional mechanism, maybe headed by the Prime Minister himself, to address this big challenge that might wipe out the humanity, forget the GDP?

Secondly, Kyoto protocol is going to come to an end in 2012. We do not know the feature of this protocol. In fact, the framework of this protocol is available internationally to deal with climate change. When it comes to an end, we do not really know what is going to happen.

My dear good friend, Shri Scindia has asked a very pertinent question about CDM, green development mechanism. When the protocol is not there, there is no CDM. Therefore, is the Government planning to find out how to proceed further to engage all the countries of the world and to make sure that there is framework available beyond 2012? Moreover, the countries in the rest of world are putting pressure on India saying: "You are one of the greatest emitters. So, you should take a commitment." I understand what the Minister has said in his statement that our country being a poor country and we have development priorities and, therefore, we should not be allowed to take a commitment. What is the Government's response to this global demand that we should take a commitment? How are we going to deal with this? Is the Government thinking of bringing out a White Paper to encompass all these issues, take the Members of Parliament into confidence and also create an institution where each one of us can participate in it? This is something which is going to affect the poorest of the poor in the country. This is not the problem of the rich people, this is the problem of the poor people, and this is going to wipe out the humanity. So, I urge the Minister to answer this question. I know that his Ministry is only the nodal agency to take the blame. I would request him to please involve everybody including the Members of Parliament.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU (ARUNACHAL WEST): Madam, I am coming straight to the question.

The Himalayan belt determines the climatic condition of India. If there were no Himalayas, then the whole Northern India would have been a desert. I have not seen any kind of policy from the Government side to conserve environment, life and cycles of the Himalayan Region. My specific question to the hon. Minister is this. There was a talk about the creation of the Himalayan Development Authority for quite some time. What is the Ministry doing at the moment to conserve the life of the animals, forests and the river chain system in the whole of the Himalayan Region? I would also like to know whether you have

a massive plantation programme for reforestation in the Himalayan Region.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (KANGRA): Madam, receding glaciers is one of the greatest menace. Snowline is also receding. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests the steps that the Government is taking to conserve that ecology and environment of Himalayas.

Have they studied the river Regime as to how much of volume of water is there in different catchment areas of different streams? I would like to know the type of strategy and policy that they are just initiating to increase the volume of water in different river catchment area. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to change the Forest Policy.[\[R34\]](#)

The Forest Policy should have a forest functional plan. A right perspective plan should be incorporated in future so that we can increase the volume of water in the catchment areas and to

meet the requirement of drinking water, irrigation and also industry. So, the Govt. must have this type of policy or not?

श्री लक्ष्मण सिंह (राजगढ़): माननीय सभापति महोदया, हमें आज सुबह “नेशनल एन्वायर्नमेंट पॉलिसी 2006” किताब मिली है, इसके पृष्ठ 11 में लिखा है कि: “The Policy will, accordingly, promote the internalization of environmental cause, including through the use of incentive-based policy instruments taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution.” The Heading is “Polluters’ Page.” It is on page 11.

मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से स्पष्ट प्रश्न है कि एन्वायर्नमेंट पॉलिसी के अंतर्गत पृष्ठ 11 में पॉल्यूटर पेज की बात कही गई है, इसके लिए कब कानून बनाने जा रहे हैं?

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (पटना): सभापति महोदया, मैं भी कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ।

सभापति महोदया : मैंने पहले बहुत सदस्यों को अलाऊ किया है और आपकी पार्टी की तरफ से भी अलाऊ किया है।

SHRI A. RAJA: Madam Chairperson, I am thankful to the hon. Member Mr. Scindia who brought this Calling Attention Motion and other Members who had expressed their concern over this important Motion.

By viewing the expressions that have been made in the House, including the Mover, I can broadly classify the issues into two. One is, what are all the impacts on the climate change? We have to do something domestically. What are all the efforts going to be taken by the Government domestically? On the other hand, another one is, what are all the international events being contemplated on the climate change by way of Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?

Coming to the first point, ‘yes’, it is true. Of course, most of the Members expressed their views that what are all the adverse impacts due to the climate change and also about the domestic yardsticks. The domestic yardsticks are namely, agriculture, forestry, including bio-diversity, coastal zone areas, including the sea level rising, water resources, which include what some of the Members had put regarding Himalayas or Arunachal Pradesh about glacier melt, and human health care delivery system, including the vector borne disease contemplated by the Health Ministry.

Though some of the allegations have been expressed here, it is true that the climate change is not directly connected with the suicide of farmers. Maybe, it is indirectly connected. But coming to all the domestic needs, which may be directly or indirectly connected with the climate change, these are all the issues being looked after by various Ministries. But so far as my Ministry is concerned, in order to minimize the emission, the standards, which have been contemplated in the Environmental Protection Act for vehicles, industries and for other areas, are being updated day by day. Day by day we are giving new updates. It is being contemplated by way of rules under the Environmental Protection Act.

Another more important area in the field of climate change is afforestation. Afforestation is having its own co-efficient in terms of carbon emission and in terms of reduction of other emissions

also. So, afforestation is being taken up by this Ministry, by the National Afforestation Eco Board. We are spending Rs.1200 crore in the Tenth Plan to promote the forestry.

Madam, I can be permitted to come to the other side regarding the international scenario for the climate change. As the hon. Member Mr. Mahtab put it, the climate change cannot be confined, cannot be interpreted or measured within the territorial limits. Whatever efforts taken by India, whatever efforts taken by the developing countries like India or some other countries like China, may be attempts to have some reduction in the climate change. That does not mean, we can win over and that we can exclusively achieve the climate change commitment whatever we have contemplated in the Kyoto Protocol or the United Nations Framework[MSOffice35].

Madam, it is a common responsibility. The opening sentence contemplated in the Kyoto Protocol itself says that it is a common commitment but differentiated responsibilities. India is well within the limit of the emissions. We are not the polluters when it is compared with the developed countries. We are not doing any harm to the entire world. In spite of the fact that the developmental activities being taken place rapidly in the country, we were very categorical before the international forums and it has been proved by scientific methods that our emissions are only below three per cent which is well within the limits when it is compared to our population.

What can be done? Two instruments are available before us. One is the Kyoto Protocol and another is the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Some of the hon. Members have asked – under the Kyoto Protocol what are all the efforts that are going to be taken by India and how the other countries, those who have not signed it can be brought under its umbrella. With all my sincerity I can submit before this House that it may be a Herculean task for India because we are a developing country. But we were very firm and categorical in the Kyoto Protocol that we are a developing country and we are facing problems with poverty and that the other industrial developmental growth must take place in the country and so we cannot give any commitment to reduce our emissions.

That does not mean India is not at all caring about the emissions. We are having our own system, as I put it earlier. Some of the legal measures have been taken under the Environmental Protection Act, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 etc. There are various measures which are being taken in this regard. But, before the international forums, we were very firm that we cannot give any commitment to reduce our emissions. Some of the hon. Members including my predecessor Shri Suresh Prabhu spoke on this. ... (*Interruptions*)

श्री लक्ष्मण सिंह (राजगढ़) : यह बतायें कि आप हस्ताक्षर करने वाले हैं या नहीं। क्योंकि इटली ने हस्ताक्षर कर दिये हैं। कम से कम इटली से प्रेरणा लेकर आप सदन में इस बात का आश्वासन दें कि आप क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल पर हस्ताक्षर करने वाले या नहीं। यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है।

SHRI A. RAJA : I will come to this point. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): We have already signed it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Laxman Singhji, this is not the way.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. RAJA : My predecessor Shri Suresh Prabhu wanted to know whether any efforts are being made to bring the United States within the Kyoto Protocol. There was an attempt. It is true that the United States and Australia and some of the other developed countries were not inclined to put their signature in the Kyoto Protocol and as such they are not able to give any commitment to reduce their emissions. But equally it does not mean that the United States or Australia are not at all caring to reduce their emissions. The United States are having their own laws. When we went there and interacted with them, in the United States even the State-wise, the Provincial States are having their own laws are having their own laws to reduce their emissions.

But, by way of complementing the Kyoto Protocol, Australia had a Conference in the name of Asia Pacific Partnership. Though they are not coming within the domain of the Kyoto Protocol they attempted to address the issue beyond the Kyoto Protocol by collecting some of the other countries to reduce their emissions. India took part in the Partnership meeting which was held at Sydney last year where those who were not accepting the Kyoto Protocol were ready to come to certain limits to reduce their emissions without any commitment. We felt that it may be a complementary to the Kyoto Protocol and as such we went to the Partnership along with Australia and United States.

These are all the efforts being made at the domestic level and at the international level. India's position is limited. With limited scope, whatever be the best that can be done by the Government of India we are doing.

With these words, I conclude.
