

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1012**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2022

**Measures taken to combat climate change**

1012. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:  
LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to counter the challenges posed by climate change;
- (b) the climate change policy as laid down by Government along with its stand viz-a-viz other countries in tackling pollution and carbon emissions;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any audit to identify the percentage of land in the country that is Carbon negative; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) Government of India is committed towards countering climate change through its several policies, programmes and schemes. The National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) is the overarching policy framework to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change in the country. It was launched in 2008 with 8 National Missions, which are - (i) National Solar Mission (ii) National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (iii) National Water Mission (iv) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (v) National Mission on Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem (vi) National Green India Mission (vii) National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (viii) National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change.

Subsequent to the NAPCC, State Governments were also encouraged to prepare State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in consistence with strategies in the NAPCC. SAPCCs are policy documents of the States/Union Territories (UTs) outlining the actions in the state to tackle the impacts of climate change. Thirty-three States/UTs have prepared their SAPCC with guidance from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). In addition, Government is also implementing the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) to support adaptation measures of States / UTs in areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Further, Government of India has also embarked upon ambitious actions in the areas of renewable energy, afforestation, energy efficiency, electric mobility and urban development. The Central Government has launched

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matters (PM) concentration by 2024. Also, to reduce vehicular emission India has leapfrogged from Bharat Stage – IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) norms for vehicles and fuels since April 2020.

Further, India's forests represent net sink of CO<sub>2</sub>. As reported in India's State of the Forest Report 2021, India's total forest and tree cover, is 8,09,537 sq. km. which is 24.62% of the total geographical area of the country. This is an increase of 2261 sq. km. (0.28%) compared to the previous assessment of 2019. Similarly, total carbon stock in forest is estimated as 7204 million tonnes. There is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compare to the last assessment of 2019. As per the Third Biennial update report (BUR) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) in 2021, the Land Use Land- Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector was a net sink of 307,820 Giga Gram of CO<sub>2</sub> eq in 2016. About 15 percent of India's carbon dioxide emissions in 2016 were removed from the atmosphere by the LULUCF sector.

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