

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED Q. NO. 3563
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

Climate Change Mitigation Efforts

3563. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) the measure adopted by the Government to ensure the proper implementation of environmental regulations and the Forest Rights Act in West Bengal, while also considering the need for sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities and tribal populations;
- (b) the support provided by the Government for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in West Bengal, especially for vulnerable regions like the Sundarbans; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address transboundary environmental concerns?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Environmental regulations across the country, including the State of West Bengal are implemented through Environment Departments of States/ UTs, State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees, Coastal Zone Management Authorities and Regional Offices of the Ministry. Defined areas in Coastal stretches are declared as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)/Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) to conserve and protect coastal and marine ecosystems. CRZ/ICRZ clearance is granted after due appraisal and incorporation of safeguards, including measures for sustainable livelihoods of coastal communities. Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCAs), such as the Sundarbans in West Bengal, are protected under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and managed with active involvement of coastal communities for sustaining livelihoods. As per information received from Ministry of Tribal Affairs the provisions of “Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006” and Rules made thereunder, the State Governments are responsible for implementation of various provisions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), which is being implemented in 20 States (including West Bengal) and 1 UT. Ministry of Tribal Affairs under scheme of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA- JGUA), has inter alia included several initiatives and setting up dedicated FRA cells at the State and district/subdivision levels and through convergence with several schemes of Department of Agriculture, Animal

Husbandry and Fisheries where the respective scheme guidelines have been modified to limit the beneficiary contribution wherever needed to only 10 %.

(b) National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) has sanctioned 30 projects across 27 States and UTs, including West Bengal, with a total approved cost of Rs 847.48 crore.

Under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for critical gap funding to implement air quality improvement measures, an amount of Rs. 1313.21 crore has been provided to West Bengal for implementation of city action plans in six cities namely, Asansol, Kolkata Urban Agglomeration (including Howrah and Barrackpore), Haldia and Durgapur.

Under Centrally sponsored scheme the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for Conservation and Management of Wetlands, an amount of Rs. 16.91 crore has been released from 2003-04 to 2019-20 to the Govt. of West Bengal for conservation and management of Sundarbans wetland for activities like wetland mapping, restocking of aquatic fauna, habitat improvement, alternate livelihood development activities, public awareness and monitoring & research.

An amount of Rs. 88.514 lakhs was released for Sundarbans to West Bengal under the National Coastal Mission during the financial year 2022-23.

(c) Government of India has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure safe storage, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The import/export of hazardous and other waste is regulated thorough the said Rules. India has ratified the Basel Convention, which mandates Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for movement of hazardous wastes, and the Rotterdam Convention, which regulates international trade in certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides, enabling Parties to permit, restrict or prohibit their import. Transboundary concerns related to climate change, are addressed through the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) comprising nine sector-specific missions, implemented by respective Nodal Ministries/Departments. All these Missions focus on strategies to combat the adverse impacts of climate change in the Country, including in West Bengal. West Bengal has adopted State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) 2021–30 as a roadmap aiming for a carbon-neutral State.
