

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2143
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cost of negative environmental impact of development is being taken into account while assessing Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that over 10 per cent of the country's GDP is being lost annually due to environment damage and related impact;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps the Government propose to take control the environmental damage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS.

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Though concerns have been expressed both at national and international levels to take into account the environmental damages in the economic aggregates, it has not, however, been possible to evolve firm agreement at the international level on concept, definition, measurement and valuation of environmental assets and degradation beyond natural rejuvenation process. Therefore, the UN Statistical Commission has not recommended that the estimates of GDP be corrected for environmental damages.

(c)&(d): No official estimates of the loss of GDP due to environment damage and related impact are available. Some research studies are, however, available which indicate such losses varying from 2.64% to about 10%. These research studies are not based on comparable methodology and are heavily influenced by the value judgement of research workers.

(e): Several steps have been taken by the Government to prevent and control damage to the environment. Measures taken include prevention and control of pollution through legislation viz., Air (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1981, Water (prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974 as amended upto the 1988, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 1988, National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995, National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997, the Environment (protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 -Emission Standards for New Generator Sets, Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999 notification, etc; Mandatory Environment Impact Assessment of Development Projects to mitigate damage to environment; Emphasis on Pollution Prevention rather than end of the Pipe Pollution Control; Fiscal incentives to the industries for adopting cleaner production technology; an allocation of Rs.850 crores made for 2000-2001 for implementing various schemes of the Ministry of Environment including Control of Pollution and Afforestation.