

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:15
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006
NEW ENVIRONMENT POLICY
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the draft of the new National Environment Policy has been cleared by the Government;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the views of the eminent environmentalists have been considered in the policy;
- (d) If so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (f) the extent to which the new environment policy would be helpful in tackling various environmental issues?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 15 FOR 24.7.2006 REGARDING NEW ENVIRONMENT POLICY RAISED BY SHRI UDAY SINGH AND SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD

(a) Yes Sir. The National Environment Policy (NEP), 2006 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 18.5.2006 and it is available on the website (<http://www.envfor.nic.in>) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(b) The NEP, 2006 is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The NEP is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environmental challenges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of the Policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indication of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review.

(c)&(d) Yes Sir. A great deal of published research literature was reviewed for preparation of the NEP. Extensive consultations with experts in different disciplines Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, State Governments, Industry Associations, Academic and Research Institutions, Civil society, NGOs and the Public was also held. The Policy was finalized after considering all the views and suggestions received on the draft NEP document.

(e) The Policy outlines a significant number of new and continuing initiatives for enhancing environmental conservation, which require coordinated action by diverse actors, and preparation of Action Plans on identified themes by the concerned agencies at all levels of Government –Central, State/UT and Local. The concerned Ministries/Departments in the Central Government are required to prepare Action Plans and encourage the State Governments/UT Administrations to undertake similar action.

(f) The Policy is intended to be mainstream environmental concerns in all development activities. It is intended to be a guide to action: in regulatory reforms; programmes and projects for environmental conservation; and review and enactment of legislation, by agencies of Central, State and Local Governments.