

जलवायु परिवर्तन के बारे में चर्चा

1524 बजे

माननीय अध्यक्ष: मैं इस विषय पर नियम 193 के तहत आज जिस विषय पर अल्पकालीन चर्चा हो रही है, यह विषय पूरी मानवता के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। जलवायु परिवर्तन मानव सभ्यता पर एक बड़ा संकट है, जिसे लेकर आज पूरा विश्व चिंतित है।

हमारे लिए यह हर्ष का विषय है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में भारत अनेक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए अग्रिम भूमिका निभा रहा है। यह एक ऐसा व्यापक विषय है, जिसमें देश की सभी लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं, समस्त जनता तथा जनप्रतिनिधियों के सामूहिक भागीदारी की आवश्यकता है।

मेरा आग्रह है कि हमारे जनप्रतिनिधियों ने इस संदर्भ में जो भी प्रयास किए हैं, इस चर्चा में अवश्य साझा करें ताकि अपने योगदान और अनुभव से देश की विभिन्न लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं और जनप्रतिनिधियों को प्रेरणा मिल सके। मेरा विश्वास है कि इस विषय पर आज की चर्चा अत्यंत सार्थक, रचनात्मक और प्रोडक्टिव रहेगी।

श्रीमती करुणानिधि कनिमोझी।

(1525/RK/MK)

1525 hours

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Thank you, Sir. It is very heart-warming to listen to your words which give us a lot of credibility because there are people who still do not accept that there is climate change and it is a crisis. So, I start by thanking you for your words.

Today, human beings have become richer, more powerful, and more advanced. The literacy rate is much higher than ever before. But today's youth have never ever been faced with this kind of climate anxiety.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, सदन में आपस में चर्चा मत कीजिए।

... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्लीज, आप लोग बैठ जाइए।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Their minds are eclipsed with fear. When I was talking to a group of youngsters, one of the boys told me that he is not sure whether he will reach the age of 50. It was very disturbing to listen to a young person, in his early 20s, saying that he does not know whether he will reach the age of 50. We cannot wish climate change away.

One of our youngest climate activists, Greta Thunberg said, "I want you to act as if your house is on fire". We cannot call climate activists as alarmists or we cannot push it away saying that there is a conspiracy behind it. Our oceans are heating up. The rains are acidic. Forests are burning. Coasts are

eroding. Sea levels are rising, and people are getting displaced. That is the truth.

We are bickering and politicking over caste, religion, and racial differences. While we are doing all these, we are losing the only habitat known to human kind. This is an existential crisis and nothing is more important than this.

The IPCC Assessment Report, which was released in August this year, has stated that it is a 'code red for humanity'. It is said that it is not just climate change but a climate emergency.

The COP 26, 26th Conference of Parties for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held one month ago in Glasgow. The 26th COP meeting is considered as the most significant meeting of the century because of the crisis in front of us.

1528 hours

(Dr. Kirit P. Solanki *in the Chair*)

There were around six trillion trees on this earth before agriculture revolution, which started nearly 10,000 years ago. Today, it is less than half of what was there before the revolution started. Losing our forests is not just losing places of calm and comfort. We are losing the diversity of life, human health, the livelihood it provides, and the climate resilience it gives to the earth.

Global warming is simply increasing carbon emissions in the atmosphere, more than what can be absorbed by the trees, seas, and natural environment. Sir David Attenborough recently mentioned that the concentration of carbon in our atmosphere finally comes down to a single number. We should all join our hands together to combat it.

The IPCC Report 2018 also warned us that global warming will increase during the 21st century unless de-production in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse emissions occur in the coming decades.

The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 was about limiting the rise in global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius. The Glasgow Agreement has gone a step ahead and has set an ambitious goal of reducing it to around 1.5 degrees Celsius, that is pre-industrial revolution levels.

(1530/PS/SJN)

Our hon. Prime Minister has made five important commitments in the Climate Summit. They are: India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 gigawatts by 2030; India will fulfil 50 per cent of its energy requirements with renewable energy by 2030; India will reduce its carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030; India will reduce carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent by 2030; and India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070.

'Net zero' is a balance between the amount of greenhouse gases produced and removed from the atmosphere.

All five commitments made by India are about mitigation aspects of climate change. The final commitment of achieving net zero by 2070 has received the most praise. The IPCC Report – 1.5 degrees Celsius is the first document that mentions about net zero emissions. The report explored and presented pathways for countries to limit the global average temperature increase within 1.5 degrees Celsius. One of the key insights from this Report is that the world needs to achieve this by 2050 to limit its temperature. Sir, I would like to ask what does it mean to achieve net zero emissions by 2070 for India.

According to the study conducted by the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water, India's total installed solar power capacity needs to increase to 5,630 gigawatts by 2070 to achieve this net zero which we have made as a promise in the Summit to the world. But the Government in its reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 2021, has said that only 46.25 gigawatt of grid-connected solar power has been installed in this country. So, how are you going to achieve your target? I mean this is nothing compared to what we have promised to the world.

The usage of coal especially for power generation would need to peak by 2040 and drop by 99 per cent between 2040 and 2060. Further, crude oil consumption also has to peak by 2050 and fall substantially by 90 per cent. In the Paris Agreement, India committed to increase the share of non-fossil fuel resources to 40 per cent of the power generation capacity and reduce the emissions intensity of the economy by 30 to 35 per cent compared to the 2005 levels. To achieve our Paris pledge, we have to complete, at least, 175 gigawatt of renewable energy generation by 2022. But we have not even achieved two-thirds of what we have to achieve. So, how are you going to keep up the promise you have made to this world?

To achieve its new goals, India will need to do much more in a holistic way. For instance, our country has a target of achieving 40 gigawatt of green energy from the rooftop solar sectors by 2022. But so far, we have not been able to achieve even 20 per cent of that.

In the transport sector, India's target is that around 30 per cent of the share of the electric vehicles will be increased by 2030. But according to the Climate Action Tracker, to be compatible with the Paris Agreement, the share of EV sales needs to be between 95 to 100 per cent by 2040. Our target is 30 per cent but it has to be nearly 85 to 100 per cent. How are you going to bridge this gap?

The next major roadblock for India achieving its net zero emissions is India's increased reliance on coal for power generation. More than 52 per cent of India's energy needs are met by coal alone and more than 60 per cent are from fossil fuels.

(1535/SMN/YSH)

While in the past seven years, the country has invested Rs. 5.2 trillion in renewable energy but the investment in fossil fuel industry has come down only by four per cent which is around Rs. 245 trillion. So, how are you going to keep the promise you made to the world?

The coal production is estimated to increase by one billion tonnes by 2024 from 716 million tonnes in 2021. India has the second largest coal fired power plant pipeline in the world. According to the Central Electricity Authority, coal capacity is projected to increase from 202 gigawatt in 2021 to 266 gigawatt by 2029-30. The thermal power plants are not only a major source of carbon emissions, they also have other emissions like nitrous and sulphur oxide. India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide in the world. How are we going to reduce this? The Government initially had set a deadline for 2017 to instal flue gas desulfurization units that will cut sulphur dioxide in coal plants. But then, we have moved the deadlines for future. We did not do anything to cut the emissions. But the easiest thing to do was to move the deadlines from 2017 to a future date. The reason is cost. It is because private players and corporate companies do not want to pay that much to instal the desulfurization units to cut down the emissions and even the Government did not want to do it. But I would like to ask one question. Which is more important - human lives or the costs? It is very clear that the reliance on coal for energy in India will continue and it will peak by 2040. But the Government is not honouring it. After that, demand for energy will fall and then only, you will be able to reach your net zero by 2070.

You have not started honouring your commitments. You are just pushing deadlines. How will you achieve what you have promised to do?

Sir, everybody blames the developed nations and it is true that all of us are paying the price for what the developed nations did. Today, India wants to position itself as the voice of the developing nations and the third world countries. It is our duty to make sure that they have made a commitment of Rs. 100 billion dollars to combat climate change. What have we done to ensure that this commitment made by these nations is fulfilled?

Today, what we eat, how we travel, how we live, everything has an impact on environment. Who is making profits out of it? It is the big corporate companies. These corporate companies do not let justice be done to people. Their lobbies will not allow the Governments to make policy changes and they do not allow justice to be done to the people and we have examples like the Union Carbide plant. Even after 35 years of that incident, still people are seeking justice. The people have not got what they have to be given. The compensation has not been given to them and there is no clean up. Whatever was dumped there, it is still there. It is lying around. They have not cleaned up. Same thing has happened in Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu. The Unilever which has dumped mercury is poisoning the forests for the past 14 years. The people who are working are facing the problems. The river water is so polluted. Are they held accountable? No, they get away without any penalty.

(1540/SNB/RPS)

Without getting justice for the common people, what are we going to do? How are we going to keep the promises made to the world?

Sir, we talk about so many disasters. We talk about refugees around the world -- people who are affected because of political turmoil; because of religion; because of race and because of so many other reasons. But we forget to talk about climate refugees. These people are going to constitute the largest number of people in the future.

According to statistics, an average of 26 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced by floods, wind storms, earthquakes and droughts. This number of people, by 2050 will be increasing to 2 more million who will be forced to flee their home, the places where they live in; the places where they work; where their forefathers lived; where their children are supposed to live. They will have to leave these places and move and run as refugees because of climate change. Sadly, the Refugee Convention in 1951 did not talk about the

climate refugees and we did not care about them then. We did not even know much about them then. But it is the responsibility of countries like India to make sure that these climate refugees are included and there is a definition for climate refugees so that their plight can be addressed and the world can be more sympathetic towards them.

In India itself, close to 1.5 million people are being displaced every year because of climate change and because of extremities which we face every year. This displacement of people does not affect just the people of our country, but even neighbouring countries are going to be affected because of the rising water levels in the sea and if they are submerged, then people are going to come to our country and we will be affected. What is the plan? What is the policy? Does the Government have any clarity or idea? Have the Government thought how they are going to handle the people who are going to be internally displaced? Agriculture is going to be affected. People living in the coastal areas are going to be affected. The fishermen are going to be affected. Their livelihoods are going to be affected? How are we going to handle that? How are we going to handle people who would be coming from other nations into our country?

Sir, the hon. Members of this House must have seen as to what happened in many of the States in India. Recently, in the State of Tamil Nadu there has been 75 per cent rainfall. These extreme weather conditions are caused by erratic rainfall pattern. The impact of climate change cannot be ignored because they are overlapping. Cities and agricultural lands are being affected. Cities are being flooded. Does the Government have any plan about how we are going to deal with this problem in future? We have a problem; there is excessive rainfall. Chennai was flooded. My parliamentary constituency Thoothukuddi was flooded. We are struggling to drain the water out. I think, the Union Government has to have a clear plan on how we are going to deal with it. How future monsoons are going to be dealt with? Does the Government have any plan and clarity about it?

Sadly, Chennai is struggling with floods. Water has stagnated and does not have a way out to the sea. In spite of all that the Government intends to expand the port. The Government even proposes to close the Ennore Creek and the Kosasthalaiyar River Basin because they want to expand the port. What happens to the city and the people there? Should we all get drowned? That is the only thing which will happen if the Creek is closed.

(1545/RU/SPS)

We have to think about what is good in the long run, what is good for the people and not what is good for the corporates.

The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change was constituted in 2007 and then it was reconstituted, like every organisation would be reconstituted, in 2014. The Prime Minister held the first meeting of the Council on 19th January, 2015. I would like to ask the Minister if the Council ever met after that or not. I have gone through the media news and other reports. There is no information of the Council meeting ever again. So, the Council did not meet after that, and the Prime Minister went to the Glasgow Summit on Climate Change. He made promises, he delivered a speech and said what the stand of the country is going to be. The Minister was also there.

If you had not consulted the Council, then why do you have it? You did not consult any of the States; you did not consult any of the Chief Ministers. Whatever promise you make, it is the State Governments which have to implement it. Without the support of the State Governments, nothing can move. This is a federal nation and it is called the Union of States. I hope the Government remembers that and it has to consult the States. It has to include the States because we are the worst affected. When there is a flood, when farmers and people are affected, and when we ask the Central Government for funds, we get very little funds. If we ask for Rs. 4000 crores, not even Rs. 150 crores reach us. So, neither you help us by giving funds nor you consult us. I think it is very important to consult us.

Moreover, I would like to ask about the progress achieved through the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It was recently constituted. I would like to know what they have done. The Report of the Apex Committee for implementation of the Paris Agreement is also not available. We do not know what they have done and what they have achieved. It should be made available to the public so that they can understand what you have been doing and how you have been working.

On Atma Nirbhar..... (*Interruptions*) That is the problem. You do not understand that we speak different languages. Either it should be in English or you should have it in regional languages so that all of us can say it... (*Interruptions*)

*All right. I will speak in Tamil from now onwards. You tell me whether you understand or not. For that, you are saying that we have to seek permission. That is the problem.

The stimulus package not only has no place for environmental safeguards but also it is actually ecologically very regressive. One would have thought that the increasing scientific evidence linking economic problems and livelihood and disease outbreaks to ecological devastation would prompt the Government, that proclaims itself to be sustainable, to put in place measures for conservation of natural eco systems and wildlife. This is totally missing from your vision.

We say 'Make in India'. I would rather say it as *Tharcharbu* India but we are waiting for technologies from developed nations for tackling climatic change problems. There is a lot of discussion about carbon capture, utilisation, storage, hydrogen cells, etc. I would like to know the stand of the Government on what it thinks about it. Do you think it is efficient, do you think that we can also include that or that we can think about it? Nobody knows what the Government thinks about it and whether it can be taken seriously or we are not going to include that in our Climate Policy. It is prohibitively very expensive. You are not doing anything to stop emissions. Sulphur oxide emissions are there in the coal factories. This is very prohibitive. So, under 'Make in India', why can we not think about technologies which will reduce emissions and protect our people?

(1550/SM/RAJ)

India has not invested in policies to facilitate our Net Zero commitments to COP26. It has also not made the budgetary allocations necessary to execute our promise to Net Zero 2070.

The Union Government has actually reduced the budgetary allocation to the Environment Ministry. The Minister, I am sure, is well aware of it and he must have felt the pinch. It has been reduced by Rs.230 crore this year compared to the previous year.

In Glasgow Summit, our Environment Minister had said that climate finance is not charity. This is an obligation, responsibility, duty and a vow. I hope he reminds the Government and the Finance Ministry about this that it is not charity and it is a very, very important department and they have to allocate enough funds to protect our people and the country.

The economic development and environmental conservation do not have to be on opposite sides. There are many models in front of us which can ensure both development and conservation. But we have to listen and we should believe in consultation. We should consult the experts, scientists and people who have been working at the grass-root level.

I think climate literacy is very important. Not just for students, I think the for politicians, for public representatives, for the officers, whoever is involved in policy making and will be policy makers of the future, they have to have climate literacy and they should understand that it is very important to protect this world.

The Governments needs to formulate a policy on climate change mitigation and adaptation with adequate investment in research and development. It is imperative that the Central Government holds the consultations with all the State Governments, environmentalists, activists and people who have been working towards combating climate change.

I would like to conclude by quoting Mr. Jay Inslee, 23rd Governor of Washington: “We are the first generation to feel the sting of climate change and we are the last generation that can do something about it”. So, let us do something about it together. We are not here to say that you are in the Treasury and we are in the Opposition. Nobody can be above the criticism. We accept that. I think that we have to come together to protect and do something about climate change. That is the only true gift we can give to the next generation. Thank you.

(ends)