

The article is related to
General Studies-Paper-I
(Geography) & III (Environment)

The Hindu

01 April, 2022

India prepared for climate refugees, Centre tells Lok Sabha.

Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav and R.K. Singh on Thursday parried questions from Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on how India planned to address emissions from its coal plants and whether it had a strategy in place to deal with climate refugees, saying the government had provisioned for these and was taking steps to source more of its energy from non-fossil fuel sources.

Rising sea levels

As part of a discussion in the Lok Sabha on climate change, Kanimozhi of the Dravida Munetra Kazhagam (DMK) and Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress wanted to know if the government was prepared to deal with the influx of “climate refugees” or those who would be forced to move away from the coasts and their traditional habitations because of rising sea levels and soil erosion.

Mr. Roy sought to know how the government proposed to deal with coal plants and the environmental

pollution resulting from mining and burning of coal given India’s commitment at the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP 26) to increase its share of renewable energy.

Mr. Yadav, who is the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, gave a detailed reply on several aspects of environmental pollution, the rationale governing India’s position on climate change and how the country is balancing economic growth and its consequences to the environment.

He said “Western nations have a historical responsibility to address the greenhouse gas emissions they have emitted. We have a national adaptation fund and national disaster resilience infrastructure fund to take care of potential climate refugees.”



New sources

Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said India had pledged at COP 15 in Paris that by 2030, 30% of its energy needs will be from non-fossil fuels.

“We are already sourcing, as of November [2021], 40% of our energy needs from non-fossil fuel sources and will push it to 62% by 2030. International climate trackers have attested that we are the only major economy whose emissions pathway is consistent with keeping global temperatures below a two degrees rise. This context is important when discussing coal plants and we are among the few countries that have raised our ambitions, unlike many others, towards clean emissions,” the Minister said.

Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

Q. Consider the following statements.

1. Climate migrants are a subset of environmental migrants who were forced to flee “due to sudden or gradual alterations in the natural environment.
2. Climate refugees are those groups who are mainly impacted by sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and drought and water scarcity.

which of the above statements is /are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

Expected Question (Mains Exams)

Q. Discuss the various factors which leads to migration especially climate migrants and suggest possible policies and measures to be adopted for their resettlement.

(250 Words)

Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.