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**REDUCING THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES - OBLIGATIONS OF THE
SIGNATORIES UNDER KYOTO PROTOCOL V/s PARIS CONVENTION**

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ABSTRACT

The KP was adopted in 1997, recognizing that the developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Developing countries like India and China have no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) seeks to stabilize Green House Gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would minimize interference with the climate system, the global community had in December, 2015 adopted another agreement in Paris which is meant for being operationalised post-2020 (end of the KP's second commitment period). Unlike the KP which requires only developed countries to take mandatory actions, the Paris Agreement mandates all countries to take action to minimize the impact of climate change as per their voluntary commitments and individual capacity. "India has always emphasized the importance of climate actions by developed country Parties in the pre-2020 period.

KEYWORDS: Kyoto Protocol, GHGs, UNFCCC, Climate Change, Paris Agreement

INTRODUCTION

The KP was adopted in 1997, recognizing that the developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) in the atmosphere.

Under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) which had become operational in 2005, only developed nations are mandatorily required to undertake mitigation (emission cuts) targets and to provide financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing nations. The first commitment period of the KP was 2005-12. Its second commitment period was adopted in 2012. But, only 65 countries have so far ratified the Second Commitment Period (2013-2020). Indian Government in January, 2017 ratified the second commitment period (2013-2020) of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on containing the emission of Green House Gases (GHGs).

Developing countries like India and China have no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) seeks to stabilise Green House Gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would minimize interference with the climate system, the global community had in December, 2015 adopted another agreement in Paris which is meant for being operationalised post-2020 (end of the KP's second commitment period). Unlike the KP which requires only developed countries to take mandatory actions, the Paris Agreement mandates all countries to take action to minimise the impact of climate change as per their voluntary commitments and individual capacity. Amendments to the KP was adopted in Doha in 2012 for the period 2013- 2020. Developed countries have already started implementing their commitments under the 'opt-in' provisions of the Doha Amendment. "India has always emphasized the importance of climate actions by developed country Parties in the pre-2020 period.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(1) Vishwa Mohan (2017): The Union Cabinet recently gave its approval to ratify the second commitment period (2013-2020) of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on containing the emission of Green House Gases (GHGs). Under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) which had become operational in 2005, only developed nations are mandatorily required to undertake mitigation (emission cuts) targets and to provide financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing nations. The first commitment period of the KP was 2005-12. Its second commitment period was adopted in 2012. But, only 65 countries have so far ratified the Second Commitment Period (2013-2020).



The Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by India will encourage other developing countries also to undertake this exercise. It is believed that the implementation of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the KP's second commitment period will attract some investments in India as well. The KP was adopted in 1997, recognising that the developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Developing countries like India and China have no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) seeks to stabilise Green House Gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would minimize interference with the climate system, the global community had in December, 2015 adopted another agreement in Paris which is meant for being operationalised post-2020 (end of the KP's second commitment period). Unlike the KP which requires only developed countries to take mandatory actions, the Paris Agreement mandates all countries to take action to minimise the impact of climate change as per their voluntary commitments and individual capacity. Amendments to the KP was adopted in Doha in 2012 for the period 2013- 2020. Developed countries have already started implementing their commitments under the 'opt-in' provisions of the Doha Amendment. "India has always emphasized the importance of climate actions by developed country Parties in the pre-2020 period.

(2) Amitabh Sinha (2015): The Paris Agreement would not have been possible if the countries had not resorted to the strategy of win some, lose some and compromise on others. No country or group had an outright victory on any of the contentious issues, and at the same time each of them had something to crow about. Here is how some important issues were settled. This was the all-important issue as far as developing countries, including India, were concerned. Developing countries wanted the developed world to take greater responsibility for climate actions, guilty as they are for emitting almost all of the greenhouse gases from about 1850 to the 1980s. They wanted provisions of the agreement to reflect the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities' (CBDR) enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992.

(3) Keith Bradsher (2016): When the landmark Paris Agreement to address climate change officially goes into effect on Friday, 4th November, 2016, the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe will be floodlit green to celebrate the occasion. Now comes the hard work: figuring out the details.

Top energy policy makers and corporate leaders caution that it will be challenging to meet even the deal's modest goals to reduce planet-warming emissions of greenhouse gases. Many companies have not even figured out yet how much greenhouse gas they emit, much less made plans to curb these emissions. Rapid technological advances in areas like electric cars are not enough to stop the world's long climb in oil consumption, let alone reverse it. The financial framework, namely a carbon price or tax that would force industries to pay for the pollution they spew, has barely started to emerge. And while tens of billions of dollars of green bonds have been issued to finance environmental projects, these are a pittance compared to the sums required to make a difference.

FINDINGS

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997, recognizing that the developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Developing countries like India and China had no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

Since the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) seeks to stabilise Green House Gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would minimize interference with the climate system, the global community had in December, 2015 adopted another agreement in Paris which is meant for being operationalised post-2020 (end of the KP's second commitment period).

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**Provisions of the Paris Agreement, in nutshell, are as under:-**

- The Paris Agreement invokes the CBDR principle four times.
- In many places, the differentiation is brought about by having different kind of commitments for developed and developing countries. In some places, the requirements of least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) have been kept in mind.
- On mitigation: Developed countries have been asked to take “economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets” while developing countries have only been “encouraged” to “move over time” to do so.
- On finance: Developed countries have to provide financial resources to help developing countries in dealing with climate change, including for adaptation measures. Developing countries have also been “encouraged” to provide climate finance, but on a voluntary basis. Developed countries will have to communicate every two years the “indicative” amount of money that they would be able to raise over the next two years, and information about how much of this would come from public financial sources. Developing countries have only been “encouraged” to provide such information every two years on a voluntary basis.
- On capacity building: Developed countries have been asked to provide support, financial and technological, for capacity building actions in developing countries.

Paris Agreement came into effect on Friday, 4th November, 2016 but even the top energy policy makers and corporate leaders caution that it will be challenging to meet even the deal’s modest goals to reduce planet-warming emissions of greenhouse gases. Many companies have not even figured out yet how much greenhouse gas they emit, much less made plans to curb these emissions. Rapid technological advances in areas like electric cars are not enough to stop the world’s long climb in oil consumption, let alone reverse it.

CONCLUSION

Under the Kyoto Protocol (KP) which had become operational in 2005, only developed nations are mandatorily required to undertake mitigation (emission cuts) targets and to provide financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing nations. The first commitment period of the KP was 2005-12. Its second commitment period was adopted in 2012. But, only 65 countries have so far ratified the Second Commitment Period (2013-2020).

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Paris Agreement requires to stave off the most devastating effects of climate change by limiting the increase in global temperatures to two degrees Celsius, and to just 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible. But even that may prove problematic. If every country fully accomplishes its initial pledges, the increase would be closer to 2.7 degrees. Keeping in mind the provisions and obligations of the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, following can be concluded:-

Not all the countries actually ratified the Paris Agreement. Only 94 countries that had signed the agreement had ratified it, representing 66 percent of global emissions.

- Worldwide petrochemical consumption is doubling every 10 years. Aviation fuel consumption has surged as hundreds of millions of people in China and other advanced developing countries have become able to afford air tickets. And sales of fuel-guzzling trucks have soared in developing countries.
- Technological advances by themselves may not slow the surge in the world’s oil consumption. Electric car sales, for example, have taken off globally, increasing eleven fold in the last five years. But they still represent a little less than 1 percent of all cars sold. Some automotive experts have predicted a rapid embrace of electric cars in the next decade, as governments and automakers set ambitious targets for sales. If plug-in hybrids are included, more than 20 electric car models are already on the market. But it is unclear how powerful a force they will be in fighting climate change. If half the cars sold worldwide were electric starting next year and continuing for the next 20 years, worldwide oil demand would keep rising. The problem is that trucks, aviation and petrochemical production are now the main drivers of the growth in oil consumption.
- There has been a lot of apprehension on the fate of actions under Paris Agreement during tenure of Donald Trump as the US President. There are many indications that the US administration under Trump has already put the climate change issue under Paris Agreement on back burner - a move which may ultimately impact the global actions against the menace of climate change.



In view of the above, while Kyoto protocol as well as Paris Agreement has emphasized upon reducing the emission of greenhouse gases especially spewed by the manufacturing units but at the same time it renders a country lose its competitive edge in manufacturing sector. It will lead to the cost of production going high and, keeping in mind the lower scale of production, the developing countries will find it difficult to compete with the products of the developed countries.

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