

THE GREEN DISPATCH

Welcome to the first edition of The Green Dispatch

Where we shine a light on the key environmental discussions from parliamentary sessions. Our aim is to make the complex world of environmental law and policy transparent and accessible, thus inspiring action and empowering stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Environment accounts for **3%** of parliamentary discussions

New Green Credit rules aim to incentivise sustainability

Stricter norms proposed for paper plants to cut pollution

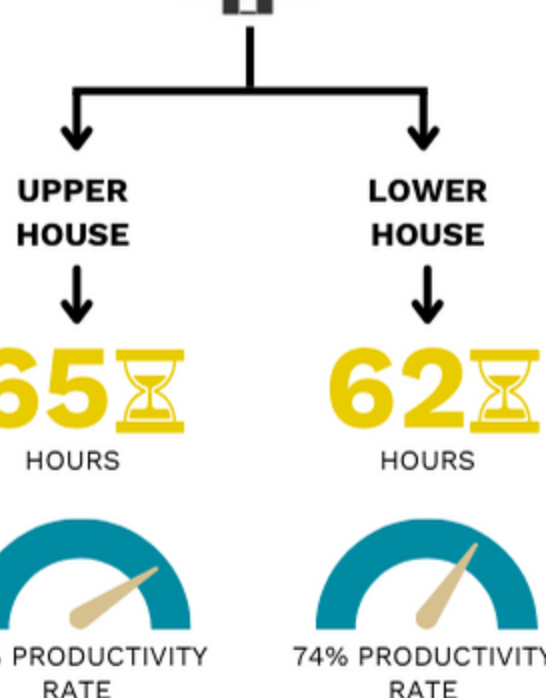
1. Winter Session of the Parliament for 2023

The Winter Session saw focused but limited discussion on environmental issues, capturing the attention of policymakers and the public alike. Following are the key highlights:

DIALOGUE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

In the 2023 Winter Session, the upper and lower houses had productivity rates of 79% and 74% respectively. Parliamentary questions dedicated to environmental issues was 3.26%, a slight decrease from the Winter Session of 2022, which was at 3.9%

However, there has been a significant rise in questions and debates around the issues of Climate Change.

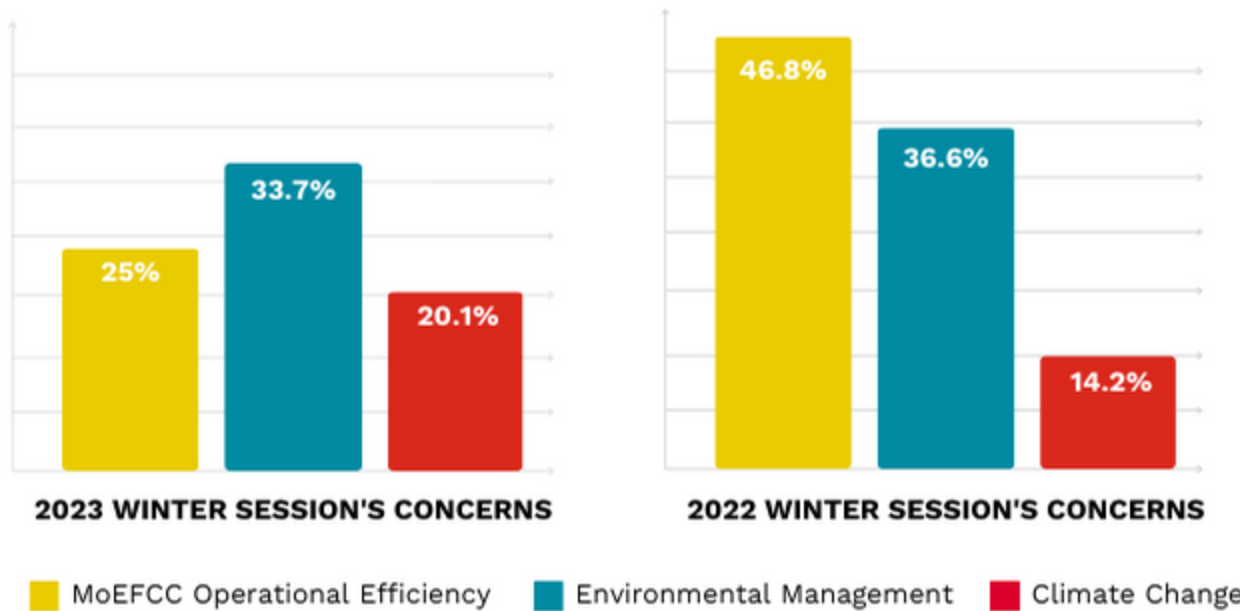


Did You Know?

In this session, The Adaptation to Climate Change (Resilience, Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Bill was introduced as a Private Member's bill.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE PRIORITIES

The questions raised in the 2023 Winter Session indicates a shift in focus towards environmental and climate concerns. Now, 25% of questions are about the MoEFCC's internal workings, a decrease from 46.8%, while there has been a significant rise in climate change discussions up to 20.1%, suggesting less concern about the ministry's operational efficiency and more focus on subject matter.



ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

MoEFCC has made several updates to environmental regulations: 25 Notifications were tabled in the Rajya Sabha under SECTION 3(1) of the Environment Protection Act (EPA), with an aim to enhance environmental protection measures. Below are the few significant notifications:

- Environment (Protection) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2023: Updates to strengthen environmental safeguards
- Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Second Amendment Rules, 2023: Enhanced guidelines for managing hazardous and other wastes
- Water Purification System (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2023: New rules to regulate the use of water purification systems
- Battery Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2023: Updated rules for the disposal and recycling of battery waste

2. Driving Sustainability Through Policy

The policy updates in the month of January signify a positive stride towards sustainability and conservation. Efforts to engage with the community on these critical issues have never been more important.

The Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Rules, 2023 notified under Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam 1980: New rules replace Forest Conservation Rules 2022 governing diversion of forest land for non-forest use.

Draft Environment Protection (Seventh) Amendment Rules, 2023 by MoEFCC proposes stricter emission and effluent standards for pulp and paper industry.

The draft Green Credit Programme (GCP) Implementation Rules, 2023 aim to incentivise environment positive actions across sectors under the GCP. It is proposed to be implemented in a phased manner through the 8 sectors, these sectors include Green Credits based on – tree plantation, water, sustainable agriculture, waste management, air pollution reduction, mangrove conservation and restoration, Ecomark, sustainable building and infrastructure.

ACTION FOR CHANGE

For a deeper dive into the discussions, trends, and our ongoing efforts, visit our websites ClimateRISE Alliance and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, or write to us at climaterise@dasra.org and environment@vidhilegalpolicy.in.

The research for this newsletter was done in collaboration with the Climate and Ecosystems Team at Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, and we will release a more detailed report with in-depth analysis of environmental issues discussed in the Indian Parliament titled 'The Green Hour.' Previous versions of which can be accessed [here](#).

Join us in our mission to foster sustainable development and environmental stewardship. Your engagement and actions today will pave the way for a healthier planet tomorrow.