

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007
RECEDING HIMALAYAN GLACIERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Himalayan Glaciers are receding constantly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps proposed/initiated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- a) The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon.
- b) The rate of recession in different climatic zones of Himalaya is found to be variable both on average and on year to year basis. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers. The causative factors may be subnormal snowfall, higher temperature during summer, less severe winter or a combination of all of them. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming.
- c) Geological Survey of India is monitoring some of the Himalayan Glaciers in different basins. The recession of glaciers can be checked to a very limited extent (site specific only) through artificial measures. But such projects cannot be undertaken on large scale in view of the nature of Indian Himalayan Glaciers (Debris covered), economic feasibility, scale of operation and likely pollution.