

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:54

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006

EFFECT ON WATER BODIES DUE TO RECEDING OF GLACIERS

Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of major glaciers in the country;
- (b) whether many of them are receding;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any study has been made or likely to be made to ascertain its effect on the water bodies fed by the glaciers; and
- (e) if so, the main conclusions arrived at?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) As per the latest assessment made by Geological Survey of India. Indian Himalayas Region contains 9575 glaciers.

(b)&(c) Studies have revealed that the majority of glaciers in Himalayan region is presently passing through a phase of recession. The recession of the glaciers is a natural phenomenon and is a cyclic process.

(d) & (e) Any specific study regarding the effect of the receding of glacier on the water bodies has not been carried out. However, realising the need for in-depth study and close monitoring of the process of snow-melt and its effect, the Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a Standing Committee with a view to examine various related aspects and advise the Government. The terms of reference of the committee, inter alia, includes "study implications of increased snow melting in glaciers on water availability and floods and their retreat through appropriate observations network and modeling techniques."