

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5146

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007

SHRINK OF GLACIERS AND RAISE OF SEA LEVEL

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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting regarding shrinkage of Himalayan glaciers took place in Belgium recently ;
- (b) if so, whether scientists from India participated therein;
- (c) if so, the brief details of policy and strategy adopted;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any study on shrinkage of glaciers, and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir. A meeting of the Working Group II of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was held at Belgium during 2-5 April 2007. The Group discussed the issue of recession of glaciers in the world including Himalayan glaciers.

(b) Yes Sir. A group of scientists from different Organizations (Ministry of Environment & Forests-MoEF, Department of Science & Technology -DST, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology -IITM, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi-IIT-D, The Energy Research Institute-TERI) participated in the meeting.

(c) The group was concerned about the receding glaciers and emphasized on close watch on glaciers through out the world.

(d)to(f) Government has initiated a Himalayan Glaciology Programme for monitoring glacier environments, physical characteristics, and paleo-climatology of Himalayan glaciers.

Gangotri glacier system, Satopanth & Bhagirath Kharak in the Alaknanda catchment, Durung Drung glacier, Zaskar, Ladakh and Naradu glacier valley are some of the systems that are being monitored and studied under the research projects.