

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:505
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007
WEATHER CONDITIONS IN HILLY AREAS
Rijju Shri Kiren

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been no snowfall in the hills due to lack of rain in the hilly areas during the current season in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the likely effects of no snowfall on the coming weather conditions;
- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee of scientists to study the weather conditions/climatic changes; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) It is not true to state that there has been no snowfall activity in the hills. However it was much below normal, particularly in the month of January' 07. There was good snowfall activity during the month of February' 07. In fact 4-5 spells of snowfall events were experienced over western Himalayan region and the two spells of snowfall events experienced during second and the last week of February 2007 were quite intense.

(b) The hilly regions which receive snowfall especially during the winter season consists of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. During the month of January there was very little snowfall in these regions. Later on, some active western disturbances started giving precipitation and the periods 8th to 14th February' 07 and 26th February' 07 onwards, witnessed very good rain/snowfall. This has improved the snowfall distribution over the hills in the winter season. Further, it may be mentioned here that the snowfall reported during November & December 2006 was more than the long term averages in many of the stations. However, overall, it was deficient during January and February 2007.

(c) It does not have any influence on the subsequent monsoon rainfall activity.

(d&e) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched in the year 1999, a National Project PARWAT, which is a joint venture of Defence Research and Development Organization

(DRDO), Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE), Army, MoES (IMD & NCMRWF) and Indian Air Force (IAF). Under this project, the network of meteorological observatories has been strengthened over Western Himalayan region by establishing additional 26 surface based and 3 upper air observatories. The project is aimed to conduct research and development work for improving weather and avalanche forecasting and to carry out climatological studies. The scope of this project is also planned to be extended into the central Himalayas.

Emissions. Many institutions in the country are addressing the issue of global warming and climate changes as a coordinated effort.

Government has recently constituted a National Disaster Management Authority

(MDMA) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to prepare and plan actions to mitigate such events.