

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5040

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2008

EFFECT OF GLOBAL WARMING ON KONARK TEMPLE

Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a recent Green Peace report has stated that the temperature in Puri Jagannath temple and Konark Sun temple will be adversely affected due to global warming as reported in 'Times of India dated 30th April, 2008';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the report also suggested that there may be heavy tidal surge along the coast stretches in Orissa;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

Answer

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

(a) –(d) No, Sir. The Green Peace report does not make any specific mention of Puri Jagannath temple or the Konark Sun temple. It only gives a general projection of sea-level rise over India and adjoining coastal area and associated vulnerability. These projections are based on some assumptions and hence are uncertain in nature.

(e) The government has initiated several steps to address the problem of climate change. Recently, the government has set up a Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also constituted an Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Cabinet.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed to create a high-priority Program to address issues of Global and Regional Climate Change. The sea-level in the coastal areas are being constantly monitored through a network of tide-gauge stations. The program will establish research networks of leading National research groups and research centres involved in allied areas by supporting collaborative research on important issues of national relevance including impacts on coastal zone.