

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
IPCC REPORT ON HIMALAYAN GLACIERS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the assessment report of Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035 was based on flawed data;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto including the steps taken by the Government to remove the misconception in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to undertake a scientific study of the Himalayan glaciers in view of this revelation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to check the melting of these glaciers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PART (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 35 BY SHRI GURUDAS DASSGUPTA: SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.2.2010

The Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035 was based on poorly substantiated estimates of recession. In drafting the paragraph on the subject in question, the clear and well established standards of evidence, required by the IPCC procedures, were not applied properly.

The view of the Government is that there is a need for a comprehensive and long term studies to determine the causes of recession of glaciers including the impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has published a discussion paper titled "Himalayan Glaciers: A state -of-Art Review of Glacial Studies, Glacial Retreat and Climate Change authored by Shri V.K. Raina, Ex. Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India. This paper contains information on Glacier Monitoring and key finding of recent studies in the Indian Himalayas and notes that glaciers have retreated throughout history as part of a natural cyclic phenomenon.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change which was launched in June 2008, envisages a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. This Mission and the Centre would address the issues of Himalayan glaciers. The Government has developed Guidelines and best practices for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-system (G-She), which are shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.