

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4320

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010

ENVIRONMENT RELATED DATA

Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

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

- (a) whether some controversial news appeared in the media recently regarding environment related data of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of those controversial news;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any impartial study about the origin of Ganga after this controversial news; and
- (d) if so, the details of that report and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Estimates of rate of recession and date for the disappearance of Himalayan Glaciers have recently been the subject matter of some of the news reports appearing in the media. In this context Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated subsequently that the conclusion contained in the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035, was based on poorly substantiated estimates of recession. IPCC has further stated that clear and well established standards of evidence, required by the IPCC procedures, were not applied properly in drafting the paragraph on the subject in question.

(c)&(d) No specific study on the origin of Ganga has been conducted. However, Government encourages discussions based on scientific findings on such issues. 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, which notes that glaciers have retreated throughout history as part of a natural cyclic phenomenon.