

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5359

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

IMPACT OF RECEDING GLACIERS

Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of receding glaciers on water flow in Himalayan rivers, floods in various parts of the country and rising sea level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to establish indigenous research institutes to study the impact of climate change and receding of glaciers as flawed data were released by Inter-Governmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;
- (e) whether India has turned down the request of International Centre for Mountain Development and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for conducting detailed study on Himalayan Glaciers and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have revealed that the run off in the Himalayan river may increase marginally due to enhanced melting of ice consequent upon faster recession. This may ultimately lead to some reduction of water in the Himalayan rivers. Studies conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography indicate that the sea-level has risen by 1.06-1.75 milliliters per year in the past century. Government has not undertaken any specific studies to assess or to correlate the river discharge, flood and sea level rise with the recession of the glaciers.

(c)&(d) The Government is sensitive to the need for comprehensive and long term studies to determine the causes of recession of glaciers including the impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers. Government is also aware of the statement of the IPCC in which they have recognized that the Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2007, suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035, was based on poorly substantiated estimates of recession.

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. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun.

(e)&(f) No such request received from International Centre for Mountain Development and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been turned down.