

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3619
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
SEPARATE POLICY FOR HIMALAYAN REGION
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to formulate a separate policy for the Himalayan region to save its environment, local people, wildlife, ecology, etc;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) Whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to formulate a separate policy for the whole of the Himalayan region; and
- (e) If so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the implementation of these proposals?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c): NO, Sir. However the following initiatives have been taken by the Government for protection and sustenance of the Himalayan Region:

- (i) Mountains, including the Himalaya, has been placed on priority agenda of the Government for environmental conservation.
 - (ii) The National Environment Policy (NEP 2006), has recognized specific environmental issues pertaining to Mountain Ecosystems of the country and elaborated upon the elements of Action Plan to be taken up.
 - (iii) "National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystems; is one of the 8 National Missions of the Government under the National Action Plan on climate Change. It is aimed at evolving management measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystem.
 - (iv) Government of India (MoEF) and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) have jointly prepared the document "Governance for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem ' Guidelines and Best practices (GOSHE)" based on a series of discussions with diverse stakeholders. The document contains background information about the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), guidelines and best practices covering a wide variety of issues, namely, Sustainable urbanization, regulated tourism, water scarcity, environmental awareness, energy options conservation area and forests zone management, monitoring networks and infrastructure development, etc.
 - (v) The Planning Commission has set up a Task Force for analyzing the problems of Hill States and Hill Areas in order to develop a proposal for development of the region.
- (d) No, sir,
- (e) Question does not arise, in view of (d), above.