

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4264  
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2009  
INITIATIVE BY THE INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION  
Jindal Shri Naveen

**Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) has taken any initiative to protect the Himalayan eco-system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether IMF has made any study on the impact of sending a large number of expeditions on the eco-system;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

- (a) & (b) The IMF while organizing expedition to the Himalayas ensures that the team members are briefed prior to their departure to mountain on the steps they have to take to protect the Himalayan eco-system. The team is not permitted to use firewood, polythene and is directed to bring back the garbage left on the mountain. The number of members in each team has been limited to 12 except to Eastern Karakoram where the limit is for 16 persons.
- (c) & (d) The IMF has signed an MOU with Institute of Geology and Geophysics of Chinese Academy of Sciences to launch joint expeditions to study the effects of global warming on the mountain glaciers (also installed Weather Stations in Chhota Shigri Glacier and Kolohai Glacier to study glacier variations). The IMF and TERI is jointly studying Himalayan eco-system for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan mountain eco-system.
- (e) Does not arise.