

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2882
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
MELTING OF GLACIERS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Himalayan Glaciers are melting down very fast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy to deal with this situation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any study on this; and
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) Geological Survey of India has conducted a study which revealed that the majority of Himalayan glaciers are passing through a phase of recession, which is a worldwide phenomenon. The recession of glaciers is a part of the natural cyclic process of changes in size and other attributes of the glaciers.

(c) & (d) Government has come up with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which was launched on June 30, 2008 to deal with the climate change related issues. The NAPCC includes a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system with a view, inter-alia, to strengthen the system for observing and monitoring the Himalayan glaciers. Besides, a research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun to undertake comprehensive glacier research in the country. The Government has developed Guidelines and best practices for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-system (G-She), which has been shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

(e) & (f) Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, under Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated a project entitled 'Snow and Glacier Studies' in March 2005 under the financial support of Government of India. Under this project, an inventory of the snow cover and glacier extent, using satellite based mapping across glaciated regions was conducted in Indus, Ganga and Bhramaputra river basins. Under this study, 2767 glaciers were monitored, of which 2184 are retreating, 435 are advancing, and 148 glaciers show no change.