GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2533
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012
MAPPING OF HIMALAYAN REGION
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to map the topography of the Himalayan region for gathering high precision data;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would consider mapping the available water resources of the region through such exercise;

(d) if so, whether this data would be made available to civil authorities to plan development activities in far flung areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Survey of India have generated topographical maps on the scale of 1:2, 50,000 and 1:50,000 for the entire country, including Himalayan region. Some parts of the region are also covered on 1:25,000 scale. In addition, Indian Satellite data from Cartosat-I has been used to generate digital surface maps of the country, including Himalayan regions.

(c) to (e): Central Water Commission (CWC) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) have undertaken a study of "Inventory and Monitoring of Glacial Lakes/ Water Bodies in the Himalayan Region of Indian River Basins" during the Eleventh Plan period and a Report on "Inventory of Glacial Lakes/Water Bodies in the Himalayan region of Indian River Basins" for more than 10 hectare area has been prepared using satellite images. Monitoring of Glacial Lakes/Water Bodies is being done using remote sensing data during monsoon period on monthly basis from June, 2011. In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has awarded a project to Space Application Centre to map the snow cover and glaciers of Indian Himalayan Region. The first phase of the mapping was completed in 2009 and report has been made public. The second phase of the assessment is ongoing. Further, the wetlands were mapped for entire country, including Himalayan regions, at 1:50,000 scale under National Wetland Inventory and Assessment Project, using Indian Remote Sensing satellite data. In addition, using Indian Remote Sensing satellite data potential areas of ground water occurrence have also been mapped at 1:50,000 scale in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. Under the recently approved National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy, data outside the negative list will be available to civilian authorities for developmental activities.