

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FOR HIMALAYAN REGION
Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization has expressed the view that the eco-system of the Himalayas is in danger due to the developmental activities in the region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several voluntary organizations and activists have raised the demand for a viable environmental policy for the Himalayan region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 for reply on 3.12.2012 raised by Dr. P. Venugopal regarding Environmental Policy for Himalayan Region.

(a) to (d):- Ministry of Environment and Forests has been receiving references from some quarters that there is a need to formulate a viable environmental policy for Himalayan region in view of the fact that global warming and climate change is negatively impacting the mountain eco-system, forests and glaciers. The Ministry is also conscious to this aspect. In this direction, the G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) was established in 1988 as an autonomous research and development organization to look into the region-specific environmental & developmental issues and concerns and provide their location specific solutions. In addition, for the developmental projects, environmental impact assessment (EIA) is conducted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and Environmental Management Plans are prepared to address various environmental concerns. Action Plan for Himalaya (1988) and Governance for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-systems – Guidelines and Best Practices (2009) are two major documents brought out by GBPIHED dealing with viable environmental policy of the Himalaya.