

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:285

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

MELTING OF HIMALAYAN GLACIERS

Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Sampath Shri Anirudhan

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

- (a) whether the Himalayan Glaciers are receding faster than those in any other part of the world and will disappear by 2035 according to the report of Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted an independent scientific study on the movement of Himalayan Glaciers and its immediate impact on ecology;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial action taken by the Government to address the issue?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to part (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.285 by ADV. A. SAMPATH and SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY to be answered on 09-12-2009

(a) to (d)) According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the Himalayan Glaciers are receding faster than in any part of the world and, if the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner is very high if the Earth keeps getting warmer at the current rate. The studies carried out by Geological Survey of India have, however, 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. These changes could be attributed to various reasons including global warming. No studies have been conducted on immediate impact of recession of glaciers on the ecology. Long term studies are required to conclusively establish the causes and impacts of melting of Himalayan Glaciers.

(e) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. This Mission would seek to understand weather and the extent to which the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Government has also prepared guidelines and best practices for sustaining Himalayan eco-system and has shared it with all State Governments in the Himalayan region.