GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:79 ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013 THREAT OF CLOUDBURSTS Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

(a) whether out of the 249 glacial lakes in Himachal Pradesh, 11 have been identified as ones with high potential for breach and posing a threat of `glacial lakes outburst flood`;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether threats of cloudbursts exist in other parts of the country also;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the preventive measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (S. JAIPAL REDDY)

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

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.79 FOR 08.08.2013 REGARDING `THREAT OF CLOUDBURSTS`

(a) & (b): Different investigators have reported varying number of glacial lakes with potential for breach and posing a threat of glacial lakes outburst floods. A study by International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development reported the number as 156 for glacial lakes with 16 of them as potentially dangerous in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) & (d): The cloud burst generally caused by high intensity of rainfall in short duration of time. Entire Himalayan region is vulnerable to rain induced hazards in the form of cloud burst. Apart from Himachal Pradesh the threat of cloud burst exists in Uttarakhand, Kashmir, Leh and other places in Himalayan region. In general cloud burst occurs in mountains and desert regions.

Cloudburst is such a natural process that occurs in short period of time with precipitation of about 100 mm per hour rain fall. Earth System Science Organization-(ESSO-IMD) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has formulated a plan of Himalayan Meteorology Program for augmenting observing systems by deploying Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) etc. Enhanced spatial and time resolution of observations would contribute to improved predication of Himalayan weather in general and extreme weather events in particular. The assimilation of the above observational data will facilitate improvement in now-casting and forecasting over the hill states.

(e) Government takes a serious note of the situation and appropriate S&T interventions for identifying suitable preventive measures. These are suggested to the State Government for planning their implementation strategies. National Disaster Management Authority has standard institutional arrangements in this regard. The Disaster Management Act, 2005, lays down the institutional and coordination mechanisms at the national, state, district and local level.