

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4450
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
ECOLOGICAL IMPACT
Singh Shri Parvesh Sahib

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

- (a) whether any ecological study has been conducted/proposed to safeguard the ecological impact on forest and marine life to avert another Uttarakhand-like disaster;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether setting up of new dams affects the otherwise habitable/inhabited lands by submerging such lands into water leading to displacement of people from those areas; and
- (d) if so, the details of such affected areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST, AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) Specific ecological study to safeguard the ecological impact on forest and marine life to avert another Uttarakhand-like disaster has not been conducted by the Ministry. However, in case of any hydroelectric power /irrigation projects including dams and reservoir, Environment Impact Assessment study is conducted for different projects individually and basin-wise to assess the impact of these projects on flora & Fauna, including impact on human population inhabiting that area.

Possibility of submergence of habitable/inhabited land due to Hydrel/ irrigation projects cannot be ruled out. However, the extent of submergence of such land depends upon the nature of Hydrel/Irrigation projects. Large Reservoir in major irrigation/Hydel projects generally involves displacement of more people compared to run off river projects/minor irrigation projects. These areas affected due to such projects are mostly located in Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, eastern States of Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand Central States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra and Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.