

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
NATIONAL MISSION TO SUSTAIN HIMALAYAN ECOSYSTEM
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

- (a) whether the Government has launched a National Mission for sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem;
- (b) the aims and objectives of the Mission and the issues likely to be addressed therein;
- (c) the funds allocated/released/utilized for the purpose during 12th Plan, so far; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to protect and develop Himalayan Ecosystem?

Answer

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

(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. 310 due for reply on 30.7.2014 regarding National Mission to Sustain Himalayan Ecosystem

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched a National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem under National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission is anchored by Department of Science & Technology.

(b) The broad objective of the Mission is to develop a sustainable National capacity to continuously assess the health status of the Himalayan Ecosystem and assist States in the Indian Himalayan Region with their implementation of actions selected for sustainable development. This integrated objective would entail (i) scientific assessment of the vulnerability of the Himalayan Ecosystem to short and long term variability in the weather and climate in all its dimensions of physical, biological and socio-cultural aspects, (ii) research for framing evidence-based policy measures to protect the fragile ecosystem and (iii) time bound action programmes at state level in the Indian Himalayan Region in order to sustain the ecological resilience and ensure the continued provision of key ecosystem services.

(c) Rs550 crores has been allocated for implementation of the Mission during the 12th Five Year Plan.

(d) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change accords very high priority to protection and development of Himalayan Ecosystem. Several initiatives have been taken for protection and development of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). These include, (i) inventorization and characterization of floral and faunal wealth of the Himalaya; (ii) establishment of a Protected Area Network under Wildlife Protection Act (1972) for protection of biodiversity rich habitats; (iii) policy framework with focus on mountainous region including National Forest Policy 1988, National Environment Policy (NEP), 2006; (iv) setting up of a dedicated institute, viz. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIHED) with a mandate of environment conservation and sustainable development of Indian Himalayan Region, as well as, establishment of Mountain Division at MoEF&CC to address specific issues of the mountain ecosystem in an integrated manner and launching of National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem. Under the Mission several steps have been initiated that include setting up of an Inter-University Consortium on Glaciology and Cryospheric research wherein 4 universities, viz. University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Sikkim University and Jawaharlal Nehru University are participating, (iv) afforestation of 6 lakh hectare of degraded forest lands in 10 Indian Himalayan States under National Afforestation Program (details at Annexure-I); release of Rs 1515 lakhs for preparatory activities under Mission for Green India (Annexure-II); (v) release of Rs.1111 crores to Himalayan States for protection of forests under 13th Finance Commission (Annexure-III) and release of Rs 5085 lakhs for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats Scheme (Annexure-IV).