

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:801

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

RISING SEA LEVEL

Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether a large portion of coastal area of the Indian Sub-Continent is likely to be submerged as a result of rising sea level, as reported in a magazine, 'Journal of Threatened Taxa';
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the report has raised apprehensions about a possible submersion of a major part of Godavari- Krishna mangrove eco-region and the Sunderband; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action plan formulated by the Government to tackle such a situation?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggests that global mean sea level has risen by only 0.19m and the mean rate of global average sea level rise was 1.7mm/year between 1901 and 2010. Further, as per India's Second National Communication (2012), the trends of sea level rise are estimated to be an average of 1.3mm/year along Indian coasts. Report also suggests that sea level rise takes place in the background of several other physical factors including storm surges and tidal variations, swells, normal deltaic subsidence, coastal erosion and siltation of river channels along the coastline.

The study published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa predicts inundation of bio-geographical zones of India by marine intrusion as result of 1 m and 6m sea level rise. It also predicted the impact of sea level rise on coastal areas including Godavari- Krishna mangrove eco-region and the Sunderband based on 1m and 6 m sea level rise scenario. However, these findings are not consistent with the assessment made in AR5 of IPCC and India's Second National Communication.

(d) Government of India is aware of the implications of climate change and has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on June 30, 2008. It comprises, inter alia, of eight National Missions including National Mission on Sustainable Habitat which comprises activities for managing coastal zone. Studies on Coastal Zones have been conducted for developing an approach to assess coastal vulnerability due to sea level rise under India's Second National Communication submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in May, 2012. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification was also published in 2011. Besides, Government has launched a project on 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan' for mapping of a hazard line along the coastal areas of the country taking into account the sea level rise due to climate change and other parameters such as, shoreline change, tides and wave etc.