

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:846
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
MELTING OF GLACIERS
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

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

- (a) whether the Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action plan prepared by the Government to deal with the situation?

Answer

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

- (a) As per the study conducted by Geological Survey of India, 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.
- (b) & (c) Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted a study on snow and glaciers and published a report titled 'Snow and Glacier Studies' released in May, 2010. The report reveals variations in patterns of snow accumulation, ablation, glaciated areas, sources of snow, loss of glaciated area and movement of snow line in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra Basin.
- (d) Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with a view to enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path and address climate change in all regions of the country. NAPCC comprises, inter alia, of eight National Missions including National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system which aims to strengthen the system for observing and monitoring the Himalayan glaciers. Besides, a research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun to undertake comprehensive glacier research in the country.