

can assign, license, transfer or sell the rights to others depending upon his commercial and other interests.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The following 12 patents have been assigned/licensed to various US based companies by Indian Institute of Technologies (IIT), Delhi and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) :

Patents Assigned/Licensed to various US based companies

Sl.No.	Institute	Number of Patent(s)	Assigned/Licensed
1.	IIT (Delhi)	1	M/s SIP Industries, Houston, USA (Assigned)
2.	CSIR	1	GE, USA (Assigned)
		3	Signal Stop LLC, USA (Assigned)
		6	M/s IndUS Pharmaceuticals, USA (Licensed)
		1	Nostrum Pharmaceuticals Inc., USA (Licensed)

Melting of Glaciers

3584. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the glaciers in India are melting due to the global warming;
- (b) whether this phenomenon has affected the Ganges and its other tributaries; and
- (c) if so, the preventive measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The world is experiencing a phase of inter-glacial period since 10,000 years, during which melting of glaciers and its eventual recession, with minor fluctuations in between, is a natural phenomenon. This holds true for glaciers in India also.

(b) Out of the total catchment area of 10, 16, 124 Km² of Ganges, only 19,700 Km² lie under the influence of glaciated terrain i.e. upto Deo Prayag. At Deo Prayag, reports indicate only 28.7% of flow is contributed by the glacier melt, while the contributions from base flow and rainfall is estimated at 71.3%. As only 5% of utilizable water comes from the glacier melt, shrinking of glaciers, if any, is not expected to impact the per capita availability of water significantly.

(c) The Government of India, has constituted the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate action for a national strategy in the context of global climate change. A 'National Action Plan on Climate Change' (NAPCC) has been evolved to enable the country adapt to climate change

and enhance the ecological sustainability in its development path. Under the NAPCC a 'National Water Mission' and a 'National Mission on Sustaining Himalayan Eco-System' are being evolved for finding scientifically backed eco-friendly strategies through multi-pronged, long term and integrated studies.

Non-strategic data

3585. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to make non-strategic data accessible to public;
- (b) if so, what would be the mode of its accessibility; and
- (c) whether the information will be made available under the RTI mechanism, or it will be simply put on official website of the Ministry and department concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has made non-strategic data available to public through Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences to have mechanisms of updating their respective websites with non-strategic data that is used by public. In addition, non-strategic information is also being provided to individuals against their application made under the RTI etc.

Global warming

3586. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recent reports stating that due to global warming Himalayan glaciers have been receding at a faster pace than thought to earlier have come to his notice;
- (b) the actual position in the matter with relevant details;
- (c) the environmental, hydrological and demographic implications of this apparently alarming development for country over coming decades; and
- (d) the action Government proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Recent kinematic Global Positioning System (GPS) survey of glacier terminus of Gangotri and Milam glacier indicate a 'slow down' in the rates of recession post 1971 from 17.15 meters per annum (approximately) to 11.95 (+/-0.04) meters per year.

(d) The Government of India under its National Action Plan on Climate Change has identified a National Mission on 'Sustaining Himalayan Eco-System' to have a deeper understanding of the glacier dynamics in the Himalaya in the context of the climate change and envisages to investigate the impact on the entire Himalayan eco-system and the life and livelihood of the population. As a part