

Himalayan glaciers

1079. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI GANGA CHARAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that most Himalayan glaciers are retreating;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (d) As per the studies conducted by the Geological Survey of India the glaciers of Himalayas are receding at varying rates in different regions. As per these findings, recession of glaciers could be the result, *inter-alia* of a natural cyclic process because of which the majority of Himalayan Glaciers may be passing through a phase of recession.

(c) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June, 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. This Mission includes understanding phenomena relating, *inter-alia*, to the recession of Himalayan glaciers and the ways of addressing the problem.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system have been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Solid waste management

1080. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that solid waste management in small towns and most of the cities is in a mess and one can find heaps of garbage in the middle and side of the roads;
- (b) if so, what kind of management and waste disposal help is being rendered by his Ministry to the civic bodies of those towns; and
- (c) what kind of coordination is in place with the States and their civic bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 (MSW Rules, 2000) laying down detailed compliance criteria for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes. As per these rules, the municipal authority is