

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A team of experts was sent to enquire into alleged violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and impact of the proposed mining project on Tribal Rights and Wildlife Conservation. The Committee has submitted its report and has indicated some deficiencies in implementation of the Forest Rights Act. The report of the team along with compliance of the conditions by the user agency are under consideration of the Ministry.

Water flow in rivers

4025. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the water flow in the Indian rivers especially of Ganga and Brahmaputra are likely to be affected because of shrinkage of Tibet glaciers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The studies conducted by the Geological Survey of India indicate that the glaciers of Himalaya are receding at varying rates in different regions. The likely impacts include changes in the river hydrology, increased debris production and siltation of rivers in downstream regions.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change which was launched in June 2008, includes a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. This Mission and the Centre have the objective of addressing the issues relating to Himalayan glaciers.

The Government has developed Guidelines and best practices for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-system (G-She), which has been shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Cleaning of river Brahmani

4026. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: