

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:

- (a) the funds earmarked for the purpose of cleaning of river Brahmani in Orissa; and
- (b) the time limit fixed for cleaning the above river ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), Talcher and Dharamshala towns or Orissa have been included for conservation of river Brahmani. Nine projects of pollution abatement have been sanctioned at these two towns for an amount of Rs. 389.83 lakhs. Of these, six projects have been completed so far and the remaining three projects are scheduled for completion by March, 2011. In addition, Government has provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 49.0 lakhs to Orissa for preparing pollution abatement proposals in respect of Dhenkanal and Rourkela towns for conservation of Brahmani.

Satellite for climate research

†4027. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORETS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to launch climate research satellite in solar orbit in near future to gather credible data regarding factors responsible for climate change; and
- (b) if so, the name of the country by whose assistance these satellites would be launched along with their launching schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As a part of Indo-French Space collaboration, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to launch "Megha Tropiques" satellite in polar orbit within a year. This satellite will provide data on atmospheric humidity, radiation budget and amount of precipitation to study the climate. India and France are jointly developing the scientific payloads of "Megha Tropiques".

Trimming of trees in Delhi

4028. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to trim trees in the capital before Commonwealth Games, 2010 to make them more beautiful;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.