

Implementation of river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan in a phased manner. A total of 276 schemes have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under YAP. In order to ensure that only treated waste water is discharged to the river Yamuna, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has envisaged a project for laying interceptor sewers along the 3 major drains namely; Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara at a cost of Rs. 1357 crore under JNNURM in the Ministry of Urban Development. Common effluent treatment plants are also being set up for the treatment of industrial effluent generated by cluster of small scale industries.

Report of IPCC on climate change

*155. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed serious concern over the false report of United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regarding melting of Himalayan glaciers by 2035;

(b) whether it is not for the first time that climate science relating to India has been found to be fallacious or incorrect and also the revelation that the data regarding melting of Himalayan glaciers was unverified has dented the image of IPCC; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to stop such misleading speculations by the UN institutions in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Report of Working Group II on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability published in 2007 has provided information that glaciers in Himalaya are receding faster than in any other part of the world. If the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner, is very high if the earth keeps warming.

In the context of Himalayan glacier melting, IPCC has stated that clear and well established standards of evidence required by the IPCC procedures, were not applied properly in drafting the paragraph on the subject in question.

The view of the Government is that there is a need for a comprehensive and long term studies to determine the causes of recession of glaciers including the impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers and therefore the Government has encouraged and supported discussions based on scientific findings on the relevant issues. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has published a

discussion paper titled "Himalayan Glaciers: A state-of-Art Review of Glacial Studies, Glacial Retreat and Climate Change authored by Shri V.K. Raina, Ex. Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India. This paper contains information on Glacier Monitoring and key finding of recent studies in the Indian Himalayas and notes that glaciers have retreated throughout history as part of a natural cyclic phenomenon.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change which was launched in June 2008 includes a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its eight national missions. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. This Mission and the Centre are means to provide relevant information relating to Himalayan glaciers.

Composition of Prasar Bharati Board

*156. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narayanamurthy Committee had strongly recommended the composition of Prasar Bharati Board with its Chairman and six members being on part-time basis and only the Chief Executive Officer as a full-time member on the Board;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to constitute the Prasar Bharati Board accordingly; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Prasar Bharati informed the Ministry that no difficulties were being faced in the functioning of the Prasar Bharati Board with the existing composition and that the changes may not necessarily improve the performance of the Organisation. Accordingly, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting took the same view in its written reply furnished to the Standing Committee on Information Technology which examined the subject "The role of Prasar Bharati and its future status" in its meetings on 5th & 22nd January, 2007.

Revision of power generation targets

†*157. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of a revision in the target for power generation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, Government proposes to reduce the set target again;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the power generated during the last Five Year Plans?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.