

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

Statement

Research and educational institutions involved in Glaciological Studies in the Himalayas in India.

- Geological Survey of India, Northern Region, Lucknow, UP
- Wadia Institute of Himalayan geology, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad
- Regional Centre for Field Operations and Research on Himalayan Glaciology, University of Jammu, Jammu
- Geology department of the H. N. Bahaguna, Garhwal University, Uttarakhand
- Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
- Glacier Study Centre of G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora
- Snow Avalanche Study Establishment, Chandigarh
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Mumbai
- Birla Institute of Technology, Jaipur
- Geology Department, University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, Uttarakhand
- Physical Research Laboratories, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- The Energy Research Institute (TERI)

Assistance for increasing forest cover

1094. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended higher financial assistance to the States which increase their forest cover; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States that are going to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Thirteenth Finance Commission (TFC) has derived a

formula for recommending grant-in-aid to the States. The formula takes into consideration three factors viz. the share of the total forest area in the country falling in a particular State, whether or not the share of forested area in the total area of the State is greater than the national average and the quality of the forest in each state, as measured by density. Accordingly, the Commission has recommended increased allotment for the States which maintain more forest cover than the national average. These States/UTs are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep Islands.

Climate change *vis-a-vis* child deaths

1095. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the 'Feeling the Heat: Child Survival in a Changing Climate' Report of Save the Children, 175 million children will be affected due to natural disasters caused due to climate change and India would contribute highest deaths in this; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to address this grave problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government is aware of a Report titled 'Feeling the Heat: Child Survival in a Changing Climate', published by 'Save the children' in which they have discussed the likely impact of rising temperature, rise in sea level and more frequent natural disasters on children's lives. The Report talks of the need to prevent adverse affect of climate change on health, food security, access to clean water and livelihood.

(b) Government conducts regular assessment of vulnerability of various sectors of society to climate change as a part of scientific studies and adopts actions necessary to address climate change. Although adverse impact of climate change are felt by various sectors, more scientific studies and evidence are needed to establish direct linkage between specific trends in climate change and their impact on children's health. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has set up a Task Force on Climate Change and identified the research areas such as vector-borne diseases, eye health and respiratory diseases.

Amongst the steps taken by Government in this regard are submission of India's first National Communication to UNFCCC in 2001, preparation of National Communication for submission in 2011, study of impacts of climate change in India by an Expert Committee in 2008 and launch of National Action Plan on Climate Change by Prime Minister in 2008.