

#### **Scientific study on Himalayan glaciers**

1072. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the research findings by the UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) suggesting Himalayan glaciers may disappear by 2035 was based on flawed data;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether Government proposes to undertake a scientific study of the Himalayan glaciers in view of this revelation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated recently that the conclusion contained in the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035, was based on poorly substantiated estimates of recession. IPCC has further 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 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 Government recognises the need for comprehensive and long term studies to determine the causes of recession of glaciers including the impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun to address this objective.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change, launched in June 2008 includes a National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. Amongst the tasks and functions of the mission is included the identification of the challenges of, and the responses to, climate change through research and technology development and funding of high quality and focused research into various aspects of climate change.

#### **Copenhagen Accord on climate change**

1073. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: