

(12) Professor N. Rajendran, Dean of Arts & Professor & Head, Department of History, Bharathidasan University

(13) Dr. Sunita Pathania, Professor of History, Kurukshetra University (advisor Northern Zonal Committee)

(14) Professor K.L. Tuteja, Professor of History, Kurukshetra University (advisor Northern Zonal Committee).

(15) Professor Amit K. Gupta, Jamia Millia Islamia University (advisor Northern Zonal Committee)

1556. The Question was cancelled.

Effect of global warming

1557. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA :

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of main glaciers in India, and effect of global warming;
- (b) the environmental, hydrological and demographic implication of this phenomenon;
- (c) its effect on rivers; and
- (d) the action Government proposes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) Indian Himalayan region comprises of three major river system namely, the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra and their tributaries which originate from permanent ice fields in the Himalayas. Siachen and Gangotri are the two main glacier systems of the region. Data indicate that the glaciers in the Himalayas have been, by and large, shrinking in volume and showing a retreating front. However, there is no conclusive evidence for an abnormal annual retreat. Evidence for global warming being the causative factor for retreat of glaciers is inconclusive. There is a need to segregate the impact of natural and anthropogenic components of climate change on the Himalayan glaciers.

(d) A National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem has been mounted by the government under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to address these and other related issues of the Himalayan region.

Model for accurate climate forecast

1558. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Metrological Department (IMD) is developing a model for accurate climate forecast for helping the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Continuous efforts are put by India Meteorological Department (IMD) along with other Research and Development (R & D) institutions to improve the climate forecasts on monthly and seasonal scale to help the farmers.

(b) The following steps have been taken to help the farming community;

- (i) An experimental extended range forecast assessment in the 15-20 day range has been put under extensive performance evaluation to provide an additional rainfall outlook up to 15 days beyond the on-going weekly agro-meteorological advisory bulletins.
- (ii) A new Climate Forecast System (CFS), comprising of coupled ocean-atmospheric model adapted from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA along with other climate information generation tools, is under implementation on High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and IMD.

Interlinking of rivers by China

†1559. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that China is working on large projects of interlinking other rivers with Tibet sector and the water emanating from this place would not reach India causing drying up of several rivers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the pressure mounted so far by Government against the attitude of China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, who have said such reports are inconsistent with the facts. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.

Agreement with Bangladesh and Pakistan for minority people

†1560. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA :

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.