

that on 26th January, 2010 a forest -fire, suspected to be caused by lightning occurred in the Kurung Kumey district. The fire was reportedly extinguished within a few days without any significant loss to forests.

Global warming and climate change

1861. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the reports which are creating panic in the minds of the people by making different statements regarding the Himalayan Glaciers and the drying of the rivers like Ganga and Yamuna; and

(b) if so what steps are being taken to present a realistic and reliable picture based on scientific research to the people, on the one hand, and by taking preventive measures to avert the disastrous consequences of the global warming and climate change, on the other and?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), suggesting disappearance of Himalayan glaciers by 2035 was based on poorly substantiated estimates of recession. In drafting the paragraph on the subject in question, the clear and well established standards of evidence, required by the IPCC procedures, were not applied properly.

Government is sensitive to 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. 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, envisages a National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. This Mission and the Centre would address the issues of Himalayan glaciers. The Government has developed Guidelines and best practices for Sustaining Himalayan Eco-system (G-She), which is shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Development of forest and non-forest lands

1862. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to launch an ambitious scheme for the development of one million hectares of fringe forests and adjoining non forest lands in villages across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government had consultations with the representatives of the State Governments on the proposed scheme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) A concept paper in the form of mini Detailed Project Report (DPR) titled "Simultaneous Treatment of Fringe Forest and Adjoining Non-forestlands" has been formulated by National Rainfed Areas Authority (NRAA) under Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forests and State Governments. It is a central sector project for posing to an external donor agency for funding in the form of soft loan for an amount of Rs. 2247.79 crores for conservation of water, bio-diversity, sustainability of Joint Forest Management (JFM) and poverty alleviation in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The implementation of the project shall be done by Forest Development Agencies (FDA) through existing/or new Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) or other agencies decided by the concerned States.

Census of lions in Gir forest

1863. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest census of lions in Gir forest range has found 390 and while as per the survey has found only 117 as per the official records;
- (b) if so, what is reason for disparity in the official records and physical census;
- (c) whether his Ministry is planning to move and transfer the Gir lions from Junagadh to forest area of Madhya Pradesh for promotion of their populations; and
- (d) if so, the details of financial allocations earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the State Government of Gujarat, latest estimated population of Lions in Gujarat is 359 (± 10). There is no disparity about these figures.