

श्रीमती कृष्णा तीरथ: सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से बताना चाहूंगी कि मैंने पहले भी बार-बार कहा है कि अभी तक कंस्ट्रक्शन करने के लिए कोई ऐसा प्रावधान नहीं था, जिसको हम अब लागू करने जा रहे हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि किराए के मकान में, जो छोटी-छोटी आंगनवाड़ी चलती हैं, अगर विलेज में या कहीं और पर, यदि उनमें पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है तो उस आंगनवाड़ी में पानी भरकर रखा जाता है। टॉयलेट की फेसिलिटीज नहीं है, मैं यह मानती हूँ और इसके लिए नई आंगनवाड़ी कंस्ट्रक्शन करने के लिए कहा गया है। जब नई आंगनवाड़ी कंस्ट्रक्शन होगी, तो उसमें टॉयलेट, पानी, किचन और बर्तनों की व्यवस्था की जाएगी तथा इसके लिए पैसा भी सैंक्शन किया जा रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 246.

Inter-governmental Panel on climate change

*246. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Government's reaction to the reports that the Report of UN inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contains many exaggerations inaccuracies, fabricated, graphs, data and illogical conclusions, especially with regard to melting of Himalayan Glaciers; rising of sea levels, destruction of Sunderbans, etc;

(b) the impact of these revelations India's stand on climate change negotiations and Carbon Trading Business;

(c) whether Government proposes to reconsider its voluntary commitments to cut carbon emissions, in view of the unreliable IPCC report and absence of independent verifiable research findings/data on global warming/climate changes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Fourth Assessment Report of Inter-governmental 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.

The 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.

(c) and (d) Government is conscious of its responsibility to take steps to address climate change at the global and national level in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. Government is committed to making endeavours to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level through voluntary action in different sectors that will be outlined through the Five Year Plans.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not your question.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: No, Sir. It doesn't matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. I will come to the supplementaries. I have not come to the supplementaries yet. Yes, supplementaries may be asked. Shri Shivanand Tiwari.

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो IPCC की थर्ड रिपोर्ट थी, उसके बारे में चेयरमैन साहब ने खुद कबूल किया था कि हिमालयन ग्लेसियर के पिघलने के बारे में उन्होंने जो भविष्यवाणी की थी, जो आंकड़ा था वह पूरे साइंटिफिक तौर पर उसकी जांच-पड़ताल किए बगैर हो गया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस कमजोरी का लाभ उठाकर ऐसे मुल्क जो उनके Kyoto Protocol को नहीं मानना चाहते हैं या ऐसी giant size बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियां जो इस अनुशासन को नहीं मानना चाहती हैं, उस रिपोर्ट पर हमला करके, मायने, हम लोगों का, हमारे मुल्क का जो अभियान है, उसको subdue करना चाहती हैं, डायल्यूट करना चाहती हैं?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I would like to place for the information of the hon. Member some basic facts on the glaciers which should not be lost sight of even as we are critical of the IPCC alarm that was spread. Sir, our objection was to the panic and the alarm that the IPCC Report tried to spread by saying that the Himalayan glaciers would vanish by the year 2035. That was what I had personally objected to. However, there are certain facts of the glaciers, which are beyond controversy, which we, as a nation, must accept and respond. Number one, most Himalayan glaciers are retreating. There is no doubt about that. Number two, some glaciers like the Siachen Glacier are advancing. It is advancing marginally. But most glaciers, as I said, are retreating. Number three, some glaciers like the Gangotri Glacier are retreating but at a decelerating rate. It is retreating but the rate of retreat is declining over the last two or three decades. However, the truth is that we have 9,000 to 13,000 glaciers in the Himalayan system on our side and most of these glaciers, based on our studies, are retreating. Therefore, this is a cause for concern and, as a nation, we have to devise appropriate intervention, methodology and strategy so that we are not adversely affected by

this rate of retreat of the Himalayan glaciers. However, the fact is that the concern that was expressed by the IPCC, the language that was used and the political use that the western countries make to say that the Himalayan glaciers are going to vanish and, therefore, India must come on board were objected to by us. I am glad to say, Sir, that India's objections were upheld and we were vindicated. In September, when I raised the alarm of the IPCC Report, I was dismissed as being voodoo science. But five months later, the international community has recognized that India's stand on Himalayan glacier, on the IPCC Report, was the right step.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that if the IPCC Report has committed some mistake, they openly admitted it and you stand vindicated. But we can't be oblivious of the fact that the IPCC is headed by an Indian and there is a systematic campaign by the polluting lobby because he happens to be an Indian, and his prestige and integrity also need to be safeguarded by the Indians. But my question, Sir, is related to parts (c) and (d) of the question. If glaciers are receding, the biggest polluters are the developed countries which have polluted the entire atmosphere. Certain obligations were imposed on them in the Kyoto Protocol. Mr. Minister, I have a very clear question. Would you kindly assure this House that the Government of India shall not budge away from the Kyoto Protocol, as far as the obligations of the developed countries on their own emission cuts are concerned? We would like to have a very clear assurance from you.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I have given this assurance time and time and time again and I will give it once again that we are committed to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is in intensive care. Most developed countries want to abdicate the responsibilities under the Kyoto Protocol. But our stand has been very clear that the primary responsibility for global warming is that of the developed countries. The developed countries, barring the United States which did not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, took on certain obligations under the Kyoto Protocol which they have not fulfilled and right now the whole debate on international climate change is to negotiate the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol which goes beyond the year 2012. Sir, as far as the Chairman.....

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am sorry for interrupting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the Minister.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The problem is his voice inside the Parliament and outside the Parliament is at variance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No allegations, please.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am saying this with a sense of responsibility. Please clarify it once for all.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I will say with an equal sense of responsibility that the Member is profoundly mistaken. If he is not able to understand what I am trying to say, is not my fault, Sir. As far as the first part of the question is concerned, the Prime Minister himself and I, on more than one

occasion, have publically, categorically, unequivocally backed the Indian Chairman of the IPCC. We have full confidence in the Chairman of the IPCC. Our problem has been with the procedures and certain processes that the IPCC adopted and that does not mean we are not backing the Indian Chairman of the IPCC. It is a matter of great prestige and we will fight any attempt that will be made to unseat him.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is indeed unfortunate that the whole controversy over 2035 has diverted our attention from the real problem. Those of us who come from the Himalayas can see that the Himalayas are receding, the glaciers are receding. It is not a question of theoretical calculations. Even visually, we can see, when we fly from here to Srinagar, when we fly from Srinagar to Leh, that the glaciers are receding. What I would like to ask the Minister is: Apart from this unfortunate controversy, what concrete steps is the Government considering to try and alleviate the situation? Is there an idea to set up a Trans-Himalayan Authority that can do some afforestation? What steps will you take to prevent the glaciers from disappearing?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, first of all, I would like to say that while it is incontrovertible that glaciers are retreating, there is still some question on what is the precise reason for this retreat. Some scientists, majority of the scientists, believe that it is because of global warming. But there are many Indian scientists who believe that this is because of the natural cyclical process, but is part of the cryosphere so far as the Himalayans are concerned. But we don't have to wait for perfect science. I agree with the hon. Member that there is a visual evidence that the glaciers are retreating. A question has been rightly asked, "What are we doing about it?" Sir, I would like to mention three very important initiatives that we have taken. Firstly, we have set up a National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology for the first time in Dehradun which will have the responsibility for measuring, monitoring and modelling what is happening to our glaciers. So far, Sir, I am sorry to say our capacity to monitor what is happening to our glaciers has been very limited and most of our information comes from anecdote and impressionistic evidence of mountaineers or casual observers. So we have taken steps to establish the National Institute of Himalayan Glaciology which will have an on-going scientific programme for measuring, monitoring and modelling the state of the Himalayan glaciers. Secondly, as the hon. Member alluded, we cannot look at the Himalayan glaciers in isolation. We have to talk to China, we have to talk to Nepal, we have to bring in Bhutan, we have to bring in Nepal and we also have to bring in, at some stage when the climate is right, Pakistan. Sir, we are fully conscious of this. There is an International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development at Kathmandu. I have been in touch with ICIMOD in Kathmandu to see how we can mount regional programmes of understanding what is happening to the Himalayan glaciers. We are in touch with the counterpart institutions in China, for example. Sooner rather than later, I hope we will be able to launch a regional programme.

Thirdly, Sir, and most importantly, my Ministry has already prepared a 'governance of best practices' for the Himalayan States, for Jammu and Kashmir, for Himachal, for Uttarakhand, for Sikkim, for Arunachal Pradesh, for all the Himalayan States.

What should we be doing in order to prevent this glacier retreat? This calls for energy strategy, this calls for a re-look at the way we are promoting tourism and it also calls for a massive afforestation in the upper catchment areas. I would be glad to send a copy of this, and this is a governance of best practices and the Himalayan State Forum has been set up. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh took the initiative, and we are working with the State Governments without waiting for perfect science.

Wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka

*247. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has declared Bhimgad forest in Karnataka as a wildlife sanctuary;
- (b) if not, whether there is a demand to this effect and the details thereof; and
- (c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per information received, the State Government of Karnataka has issued notification dated 03.02.2010 under Section 18 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, constituting the Bhimgad forest as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Sir, there is a dispute between the State of Goa and State of Karnataka on a project which is popularly called Mahadai Irrigation Project. Now that the Karnataka Government has declared Bhimgad as a wildlife sanctuary which is not very far away from the project, will the Minister take necessary action under the Environment Protection Act to see that this project, which otherwise is illegal, is not continued with?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I do not want to get into the legality or illegality of this Mahadai Project. I understand that a Tribunal is being set up by the Central Government on this issue. The question is limited to the wildlife sanctuary. On the 3rd of February, 2010, the Karnataka Government notified the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary which covers an area of about 13,000 hectares in Belgaon district. Sir, the hon. Member comes from Goa and he is right that the catchment area and the place of origin of many rivers like Mahadai, like Malaprabha, like Panjim, like Markande happen to be in the area of the Bhimgad Sanctuary, and our policy is that any time any project which comes to us for approval, which is in the vicinity of an ecological sensitive area or a wildlife sanctuary, we look at it according to the rules and regulations of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and I am sure, the Mahadai Project also will be no exception in this regard.