

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: