

**Himalayan glaciers affected by human interference**

2475. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of forest cover lost after independence in J&K, North East and Bastar region;
- (b) the magnitude of damage caused to Himalayan glaciers by human interference and global warming, particularly in J&K; and
- (c) the steps contemplated have been taken to restore degraded forests and reduce human access to fragile eco-systems and glaciers particularly in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Change in forest cover in J&K, North East and Eastern Region, based upon State of Forest Report (SFR) published by Forest Survey of India (FSI) on biennial basis for assessment and mapping of forest cover of India between 1987 to 2009, are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) There is no conclusive scientific evidence to attribute the retreat of Himalayan glaciers to a specific factor including global warming and climate change since the period of observations is short.

(c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has developed guidelines & best practices for the governance to Sustain Himalayan Ecosystem (G-SHE) which have been circulated in September, 2009 to State Governments in the Himalayan region.

**Statement**

*State wise forest cover of J&K, North East & Eastern region*

(Area in Km<sup>2</sup>)

S.No.	State	Forest Cover		
		1987	2009	Change
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>				
1	J&K	20905	22686	1781
<b>North Eastern region</b>				
1	Assam	25160	27692	2532

1	2	3	4	5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	64132	67353	3221
3	Manipur	17475	17280	-195
4	Meghalaya	16466	17321	855
5	Mizoram	19084	19240	156
6	Nagaland	14394	13464	-930
7	Tripura	5953	8073	2120
<b>Eastern region</b>				
1	Bihar	28482	6804	
2	Jharkhand	-	22894	1216
3	Orissa	53253	48855	-4398
4	Sikkim	2756	3357	601
5	West Bengal	8432	12994	4562

**Forest land in Kangudi reserve**

2476. SHRI NANDI YELLIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested his Ministry for diversion of 144.50 hectare of forest land in Kangudi Reserve Forest of Chittoor (West) Division for formation of a reservoir across Palar river near Ganeshpuram-Kangudi villages in Kuppam Mandal;

(b) if so, the details and status thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in approving it; and

(d) by when requested diversion is likely to be permitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Ministry for prior approval for diversion of 144.50 ha of forest land in Kangudi Reserve Forest of Chittoor (w) Division for formation of Reservoir across Palar River near Ganeshpuram-Kangundi (v) in Kuppam (Mandal) under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposal falls in Ralaya