

Human-induced global warming

2951. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a Ministry sponsored Paper it has been stated that Human-induced global warming is much lesser than what the R.K. Pachauri-headed Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had predicted;

(b) if so, whether this assumption is based on a Paper produced by Shri U.R. Rao, Former Chairman of ISRO, where he has observed that global warming of 0.75 per cent reported in IPCC report is actually much less *i.e.* 0.42 per cent; and

(c) if so, the views of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests published two Discussion Papers in January, 2011 entitled "Contribution of Changing Galactic Cosmic Ray Flux to Global Warming" and "Galactic Cosmic Rays, Low Clouds and Global Warming". The Discussion Papers examined the issue relating to contribution of changing galactic cosmic rays and low clouds to global warming. According to the Papers, there exists highly persuasive evidence to show that the radiative forcing component due to the decrease in primary cosmic ray intensity during the last 150 years is 1.1 Watt per square meters, which is about 60% of that due to Carbon dioxide increase. The papers suggest that the future prediction of global warming presented by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change requires relook in view of the effect due to long term changes in the galactic cosmic ray intensity.

(c) The Government is of the view that more studies are required at global level to enhance understanding of the issue.

Conservation of barren land

†2952. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that land allotted to various mining companies get barren after the mining work;

(b) whether Government has conducted a survey of such barren land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government is formulating a plan to conserve such type of land; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Exploitation of minerals does adversely affect quality of land. However, to minimize adverse impacts of mining on quality of land, approval accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates appropriate safeguards to mitigate impact of mining including its adverse impacts on land quality.

(b) to (e) Comprehensive study to assess the area of land which has become barren due to mining has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, to obtain the environment clearance the projects including mining projects, covered in the Schedule to the EIA Notification 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the concerned project proponents are required to undertake Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess its impact on environment, including on the quality of land. Approvals accorded under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the mining projects stipulate that the mining shall be undertaken as per the mining plan, duly approved by the concerned competent authority, containing provisions for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined over area.

Assistance to Eco-clubs in Goa

2953. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Eco-clubs are functioning in the State of Goa;

(b) if so, the names of these clubs;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been granted to these clubs under "National Green Club Programme" or under any other scheme/programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The list of the Eco-clubs functioning in the State of Goa is given at Annexure. [See Appendix 224 Annexure No. 17].

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The financial assistance has been granted to these Eco-clubs under "National Green Corps" programme. The details are given in Statement (See below).