

**Strengthening of research capacity for climate change
observation and assessment**

4210. SHRIMATIMAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry have any policy to strengthen scientific research capacity and strategic knowledge for climate change observation and assessment during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the budget estimate for that; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Planning Commission has approved 'Climate Change Action Programme' to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests during the 12th Five Year Plan. The programme aims *inter alia* at advancing scientific research into and assessment of the phenomenon of climate change, building an institutional and analytical capacity for research and studies in the area of climate change, and supporting domestic actions to address climate change through specific programmes and actions at the national and state level. The scientific schemes under the programme include National Carbonaceous Aerosols Programme; setting up of Long Term Ecological Observatories for Climate Change Studies; Coordinated Studies on Climate Change for North Eastern Region; and setting up of Centre for Climate Change Studies.

India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) includes National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change which has the objective of strengthening and building research capacity and generating strategic knowledge for climate change. Besides, each of the other 7 (seven) Missions made the NAPCC also have research components.

(c) and (d) The budget for scientific programmes and building institutional capacity for research in the area of Climate Change is provided by the respective Ministries under their respective plans.

The proposed budget allocation for the 12th Five Year Plan period for the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change is Rs. 1050 Crore.

National Ganga river basin authority

4211. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) is not able to hold its regular meetings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the last three years, the Authority held only two meetings and, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Magsaysay Award winner, Shri Rajendra Singh, has quit the authority in disgust; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) So far three meetings of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) have been convened under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 5th October 2009, 1st November 2010 and 17th April 2012 respectively. Meetings are convened as per the need for taking decision on policy issues.

(c) and (d) Shri Rajendra Singh, non-official expert member of the Authority, had conveyed his resignation vide e-mail dated 10.03.2012 in support of the demands of Prof. G.D. Agarwal (now Swami Gyan Swarup Sanand) on issues concerning conservation of river Ganga. It was mentioned in the communication that no action has been taken in spite of request for immediate intervention by the Government in the matter. However, his resignation was not accepted by the Chairman and he attended the 3rd meeting of NGRBA held on 17.04.2012.

Contaminations from field trials of GM crops

4212. SHRID. RAJA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a mechanism in place to regularly and systematically monitor contaminations from field trials of GM crops: and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including who does it, when such trials were conducted, the locations and results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The activities involving the GM crops including their monitoring during the confined field trials are regulated under the “Rules for the manufacture, use/import/export and storage of hazardous microorganisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989” (Rule, 1989) notified under the ‘Environment (Protection) Act, 1986’. These rules and regulations are implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and State Governments. Six competent authorities and their composition have been provided for in the Rules, 1989 to handle various