

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The members nominated to the National Board for Wildlife are eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists and have worked in the field on biodiversity conservation. The five Non-Government Organizations have also been working in the field of environmental conservation and wildlife protection.

(d) The National Board for Wildlife has met six times since its first constitution in 2003. In the meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 12th-13th August, 2014, 133 proposals of national importance including those relating to strategic defence importance, road improvement for providing connectivity, laying of drinking water pipeline etc. have been recommended.

Team to study climate changes in Himalayan region

†482. SHRIMAHENDRASINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a team of meteorologists to study the changes taking place in Himalayan region of the country; and

(b) whether Government is willing to constitute the team, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Based on scientific assessment of the needs for further augmentation of observing system network, comprising Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs), Snow Gauges etc. expansion has been formulated over the western Himalayan region (J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Sub-Himalayan West Bengal). In addition, augmenting high performance computing facilities, communication, forecast/warning systems, product dissemination systems etc. are part of a continuous process by which state-of-the-art science and technology tools can be made accessible to the scientists engaged in weather research and forecasting for enhancing the service quality.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.