

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 687**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

**Melting of ice at Antarctica**

687. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate at which Antarctica continent is losing ice has doubled since 2012;
- (b) if so, whether any study was made to assess the impact on environment and rise in sea-level; and
- (c) whether any long-term planning is made to face the situation, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) and (b) As per the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C, brought out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018, global temperature increase between 1.5 and 2 °C is projected to initiate irreversible loss of West Antarctic ice sheet and marine sheet instability (MISI), which may result in multi-meter rise in sea level over hundreds to thousands of years.
- (c) India is constructively engaged in addressing the challenges of climate change at the global level and is a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement. Further, the Ministry of Earth Sciences has a National Centre of Polar Ocean Research (NCPOR) for addressing various scientific, technical issues related to Antarctica.

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