

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION. NO. 47**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

**Sustainable development and climate change**

47\*. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has demanded any special central assistance for capital investment to combat the adverse impacts of climate change;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to integrate the climate concerns especially at the grass root level for climate-proof districts and villages in Himachal Pradesh, if so, the details thereof along with timeline; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken by Government to invest in climate resilient and ecologically sensitive development with sustainable infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (A) TO (D) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 47 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA RAISED BY DR. SIKANDER KUMAR REGARDING “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE”**

(a) to (d): The State government of Himachal Pradesh had requested Special Assistance (Loan) of Rs. 228.50 crore under Part-I of the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2024-25 for reconstruction of infrastructure damaged in the State due to natural disasters of severe nature. After examining the proposal and eligibility of the State government of Himachal Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 220.10 crore has been approved and released to the State government of Himachal Pradesh.

As per the information from the state of Himachal Pradesh; several programs and projects have been initiated for integrating climate concerns at the grassroots level to create climate-proof districts and villages.

Himachal Pradesh has adopted State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) 2021–30 as a roadmap aiming for a carbon-neutral State by integrating mitigation and adaptation actions focused on sectors like energy, water, forests, health, and rural livelihoods. The Ministry has supported the preparation of SAPCC for the State.

The State Government through the Department of Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change is actively implementing the Model Eco-Villages Scheme aimed at fostering sustainable and environment-friendly living and integrating climate concerns, especially at the grassroots level. The State Government has incurred an expenditure of ₹ 3.32 crores for developing 19 model eco-villages. The State Government also aims to develop 100 climate-resilient villages to reduce disaster risks, enhance crop protection, ensure food security, empower rural communities in backward areas, and promote climate-resilient agriculture and renewable energy micro-grids.

Several steps have been taken to tackle climate change and environmental issues, which inter alia, include:

- (i) Central Government has approved National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP) for its implementation in four states including, Himachal Pradesh at a financial outlay of Rs. 150.00 crore.
- (ii) A Himachal Pradesh Knowledge Cell on Climate Change (HPKCCC) supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST, Government of India under the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)), has been established in the State to build technical and institutional capacity on climate science, support vulnerability assessments, and implement climate adaptation measures. The Cell focuses on generating climate knowledge, training, and public awareness, and aligning its activities with the State Action Plan on Climate Change, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and implementing ground-level adaptation actions.
- (iii) Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) under aegis of DST, has prepared glacial lake inventories for two states including State of Himachal Pradesh (2018), identifying 958 lakes (9.6 km<sup>2</sup>) in Himachal Pradesh.

- (iv) The State Government is processing environmental clearances for developmental projects as a crucial regulatory measure to ensure all proposed activities comply with the environmental statutes and standards to minimize adverse impacts of developmental projects on the fragile environment of the Himalayan State and to promote sustainable development.
- (v) The Department of Environment, Science, Technology, and Climate Change is promoting a scientific and technological solution approach to address pressing climatic challenges and to build a sustainable future.
- (vi) To foster innovation and strengthen research capabilities, under the Himachal Pradesh Specific Research and Development Projects initiative, the Department of Environment, Science, Technology, and Climate Change funds academic institutions, laboratories, and other recognized R&D institutes in the State with a special focus on combating the adverse impacts of climate change.

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