

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6520
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Snowfall in Himachal Pradesh

6520. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of deficit in snowfall in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help people of the State, especially the farmers to mitigate the crisis;
- (c) the amount of snowfall in Himachal Pradesh in the last five years; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government is planning to cope with the new changes in weather pattern?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the study carried out using satellite data by the Himachal Pradesh State Centre on Climate Change, deficit in snowfall in terms of average area under snowfall in the State during the period 2010 – 2017 has been observed. However, average annual snowfall has shown fluctuations during the period 2013 – 2017 as per India Meteorological Department.

In light of declining snowfall, the State Government is taking adaptation measures including a pilot technology demonstration project with funding support of Department of Science & Technology, Government of India for harvesting seasonal snow and freezing of water during late winter to enhance water conservation in the area, enabling farmers to have sustainable sources of irrigation during peak season.

(c) The average annual snowfall recorded across six locations in Himachal Pradesh in centimeters during the last five years is at Annexure-1.

(d) The Government has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in June 2008 to deal with the issues related to climate change. NAPCC comprises of eight missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, forestry, agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change, which address the issues relating to mitigation of greenhouse gases as well as adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change. 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) including Himachal Pradesh have prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with the objectives of the NAPCC to address State specific concerns.

Annexure-1

Average annual snowfall recorded across six locations in Himachal Pradesh in centimeters

Stations	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Shimla	91.6	106.3	46.0	27.7	103.5
Manali	313.0	137.0	116.0	8.0	179.6
Kalpa	484.0	326.8	546.9	112.6	350.6
Keylong	391.0	312.0	488.0	184.0	250.0
Udaipur	206.4	241.8	624.7	88.0	382.8
Khadrala	--	--	121.3	66.0	222.0
