

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Effects of Climate Change on Himalayan Region

853. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

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

- (a) Whether the Himalayan region of the country is under threat due to Climate Change;
- (b) If so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to mitigate the effects of climate change in this region; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect flora and fauna against the threat of climate change in the Himalayan region?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Himalayan mountains are geologically young and tectonically active, which make them most fragile and also sensitive to the impacts of climate change.
- (b) In order to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Himalayan region, the Government is implementing the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). As part of NMSHE, six thematic task forces anchored around six lead institutions have been set up. These institutions are undertaking studies to assess the health of Himalayan ecosystem in the areas of natural & geological wealth, water, ice, snow, including glaciers, micro flora & fauna, wildlife & animal population, forest resources & plant biodiversity and agriculture. In addition, an Inter-University Consortium on “the Himalayan Cryosphere: Science and Society” has been set up to look into Cryosphere-Societal interactions. The State Climate Change Cells (SCCCs) have been established in 11 Himalayan states to undertake studies on climate change risk and vulnerability assessment, capacity building and public awareness.
- (c) Towards the protection and in-situ conservation of the floral and faunal diversity in the Indian Himalayan region, the Government has established a network of 06 Biosphere Reserves, 32 National Parks, 107 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 41 Conservation Reserves, 41 Community Reserves and 09 Ramsar Wetland sites.
