

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4268
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
POLLUTION ON HILLS
JAI PRAKASH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether environment in the mountains is getting polluted due to increasing number of national and international mountaineering expedition teams every year which throw huge quantity of waste materials there;
- (b) if so, whether steps are being taken to save the hills from the pollution;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) Studies have indicated that hills frequently visited by tourist / trekking groups are getting polluted due to inadequate infrastructure for management of solid wastes.
- (b), (c) & (d) G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development, Almora has undertaken several research activities which inter-alia, focus on the issues relating to solid wastes management. Steps have also been taken to declare the hill stations as ecologically sensitive depending upon the prevailing environmental conditions in those hill stations. In this regard Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani has already been notified as an eco-sensitive region. A Committee has been constituted to identify parameters for determining the environmental / ecological sensitivity of the hill stations.