

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4631  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
GLOBAL WARMING  
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the effects of Global Warming as a result of which several marine plants are on the verge of extinction and there is apprehension of submergence of coastal towns and other natural disasters due to increasing sea level caused by the ice melting of Antarctica;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is aware of any such research work confirming such apprehension;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme to tackle it; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a): Global warming is a worldwide phenomenon. According to the estimates of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the worldwide measurements of sea level show a rise of 1 to 2 mm during the last century and the global mean sea level may rise between .09 and 0.88 metres during 1990-2100. If continued unabated, this may result in long run in displacement of people in coastal zones and large landmass being inundated across the world. Furthermore, ecological productivity and bio diversity would be altered by climate change with increased risk of extinction of some species, including marine plants. Increasing concentration of greenhouse gases are also projected to result in changes in frequency, duration and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves and heavy precipitation events.

(b & c): The IPCC was set up jointly by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1988 to assess the scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant for the understanding of the risk of human induced climate change. Indian government and research agencies are also directly involved with IPCC and other national and international studies to assess the actual extent of impacts. Besides, at Indian centre at Maitri in Antarctica, Indian Scientists are a part of an international initiative that is working for routine and systematic measurements of various gases, ozone, water vapour etc. for providing valuable data for modelling studies and in understanding global change.

(d & e): India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate change. India is actively participating in the discussions relating to commitments to reduce GHG emissions by developed country Parties. India's policy on global warming and climate change is based on maintenance of present equilibrium of commitments and differentiation between developed and developing countries with no new commitments for the developing countries. The Government has taken several steps to do vulnerability assessment of various aspects of climate change including rise in sea level. Some of the national measures taken to reduce green house gas intensity of our economy include energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy programmes, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and better cultivation practices.