

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 218
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

Committee to study climate change

218. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that incidence of natural calamities has increased due to day-to-day climate change;
- (b) if so, whether Government would consider to constitute a committee comprising of meteorologists and scientists to study the climate change; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) Government is fully seized of the matter regarding natural calamities and climate change. As per the report titled “Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis” released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in August 2021, climate change is affecting weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones.

Further, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences(MoES), observations indicate that incidences of extreme weather conditions have increased across the globe including India in the recent decades. The complex interactions between the earth system components amidst the warming environment and regional anthropogenic influences have therefore led to a rise in frequency of localized heavy rainfall events, drought and flood occurrences, and increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones etc. in the last few decades.

While many studies monitor natural calamities such as floods, drought and heat, the science of attribution of these changes particularly to climate change is far more complex and currently an evolving subject. Most studies so far have relied on mathematical modelling of climate change impacts.

The India Meteorological Department(IMD) under MoES, is the nodal organisation involved in meteorological observations, communications, forecasting and weather services

in the country. The IMD brings out the publication 'Annual Climate Summary' at the end of every year that features highlights of climate patterns and long-term changes since the year 1901 in all-India temperature and rainfall at annual and seasonal scales.

Further, MoES has established the Centre for Climate Change Research at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune to study the impact of climate change in the country. The centre is dedicated to carry out research on global and regional climate change with a particular focus on the Indian climate and the monsoons.

Specific measures to mitigate the impact of natural calamities are also undertaken by the disaster management authorities at the National and State level, in coordination with relevant Ministries and Departments.
