**No. Acad.III/PQ/1067/2015/ 30th March, 2015**

Shri C.M. Sharma

Deputy Secretary

Government of India

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

2nd Floor, Yayu Wing

Jorbagh Aliganj

**New Delhi - 110003**

Sub: Material for reply to Lok Sabha Provisionally Starred Question Dy. No. 14578 for answer on 17.03.2015 asked by Shri Prem Dass Rai regarding “Institutes of Himalayan Research”.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to your e-mail dated 23.03.2015 on the subject cited above.

As desired, we forward herewith the draft material to the aforesaid Lok Sabha provisionally starred question for further action at your end.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

**(UMAKANT AGARWAL)**

Deputy Registrar (Academic)

**Encl:** As above.

CC:

* PS to Registrar --- For kind information of the Registrar.

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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

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**Material for reply to Lok Sabha Provisionally Starred Question Dy. No. 14578 for answer on 17.03.2015 asked by Shri Prem Dass Rai regarding “Institutes of Himalayan Research”.**

**Q. (a) The details of research centres/knowledge Institutions established for Himalayan Research in India;**

Reply (a) On the personal initiative of the Vice-chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi has initiated a Consortium on the Himalayan Cryosphere **(Annexure - I)**, inviting three other Universities comprising of two state and two central, i.e. Kashmir University, Srinagar; University of Jammu, J&K; and Sikkim Central University, Sikkim, with a mandate to work on the Himalayan Cryosphere and link it with the societal responses and adaptation capabilities. This is the second year ending on the project.

**Q. (b) The details of research output by the said Institutions during the past three years and the current year;**

Reply (b) The member-Universities of the Consortium have partially covered J&K, HP, Uttrakhand on the current status of Cryosphere with data being obtained through surveys in the adjoining villages. There is, however, no conclusive impact of the Cryosphere changes on the societal requirement as yet.

**Q. (c) Whether the research at these Institutions during the past three years and the current year;**

Reply (c) The member-Institutions have been partially able to procure state-of-art instruments through the Government of India’s generous funding. These instruments would be installed in the field stations during this year (2015-2016) being set up next to the glaciers in three states, i.e., J&K, HP and Sikkim.

**Q. (c) Whether the research at these Institutions has been constrained by lack of budgetary support and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?**

Reply (c) There has been a generous funding to the tune of `18.02 Crores, being shared for asset creation among these member-Universities, besides field-based first-hand in situ measurements and surveys. However, the budget for FY 2014-15 remains to be released.

**Q. (d) Whether the research conducted at the said Institutions has resulted in policy actions on the ground, if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government thereon, and;**

Reply (d) The results obtained so far are preliminary (end of two years out of proposed five years duration) and shall not make any substantive contribution to policy framing at this stage.

**Q. (e) Whether the Government plans to undertake measures to facilitate exchange of information between these Institutions including through creation of a Consortium of Universities in the Himalayan Region?**

Reply (e) As agreed upon in the IUCCCC mandate **(Annexure - II)**, all assets created under this consortium shall be shared, wherever necessary, by the partner Universities and would further facilitate extending the facilities to other Institutions having similar outlook.

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**Annexure – I**

Jawaharlal Nehru University had taken an initiative to form a four partner consortium of Universities to address the issue of Himalayan cryosphere and climate change. On 13 February 2012, a MoU was signed by the heads of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Sikkim University, University of Kashmir and University of Jammu, Jammu. Knowing that the Himalayan glaciers are one of the most sensitive parameter to evaluate for climate change, this consortium was christened as: **Inter-University Consortium on Cryosphere and Climate Change (IUCCCC; see** [**www.iucccc.in**](http://www.iucccc.in)**).** These universities are best suited for the purpose of addressing the cryosphere climate change issues.

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**Annexure – II**

Jawaharlal Nehru University-coordinated Consortium currently implements DST-CCP funded project entitled: **The Himalayan Cryosphere: Science & Society**. This will enable setting-up of the cutting-edge scientific equipments over five years period including setting up of the state-of-art laboratories for cutting edge research and capacity building to be shared among the consortium members and other Indian Institutions with similar research interests. Each Consortium University has identified benchmark glaciers in the Himalayas to make holistic scientific studies w.r.t. to possible effects of climate change and societal responses thereto.

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