



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**(STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES)**  
**P R E S S R E L E A S E**  
**(29 March, 2023)**

**Twenty Third Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on the subject "Glacier Management in the Country- Monitoring of Glaciers/Lakes including Glacial Lake Outbursts leading to Flash-floods in the Himalayan Region"**

Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel, Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022-23) presented the **TWENTY THIRD REPORT** of the Committee on the subject "Glacier Management in the Country- Monitoring of Glaciers/Lakes including Glacial Lake Outbursts leading to Flash-floods in the Himalayan Region" today, i.e., 29.3.2023 (Wednesday). Some of the important Observations/ recommendations of the Committee, contained in the Report, are as follows:-

<b>1.</b>	<b>Need for overarching Apex Body for Glacier Management</b>	Taking note of plethora of Ministries/Departments/Institutions with different mandates for dealing with Himalayan glaciers, the Committee urged upon the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR) to play a lead role in setting up the overarching apex body for glacier management. <b>(Para 2.4)</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Need to set up National Level Research Organization</b>	The Committee urged upon the DoWR, RD&GR to carefully study the suggestions/solutions offered by the Ministries/Departments/Agencies and prepare a comprehensive concept paper / cabinet note subsuming the solutions/suggestions in consultation with all the Ministries / Departments / Agencies, so as to evolve a consensus on the structure, mandate and modalities of the national level research organization. <b>(Para 2.5)</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Need to Have Data Sharing Agreements with neighbouring Himalayan countries</b>	While noting the fact that there is no specific Agreement/Treaty with neighbouring countries for sharing of glacier related data for large-scale modeling and runoff evolution, the Committee recommended the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to take up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs so as to have some kind of bilateral/multilateral Agreement with neighbouring Himalayan countries for sharing of information / data on the changing state of glaciers and the threats posed by them. <b>(Para 2.8)</b>

4.	<b>Need to set up a common data sharing platform at National level</b>	While noting the various constraints / problems in sharing of glaciological research data even at the national level, especially the high-resolution data because they need specific permission from concerned authorities before their use, the Committee recommended the Department to take up this issue with the concerned Ministries/Department/Agencies/Institutes and set up a common data sharing platform under the aegis of a single nodal agency so as to enable seamless exchange of data by various researchers / stake holders. <b>(Para 2.9)</b>
5.	<b>Need to strengthen Network of Monitoring Stations</b>	Noting that Himalayan glaciers and glacial lakes are not being monitored / observed on a scale on which they should have been due to their remote location and difficulty in accessing them, the Committee urged upon the Department to make concerted efforts to set up a network of high altitude meteorological and discharge stations covering more glaciers and watersheds in the Himalayan region. <b>(Para 2.10)</b>
6.	<b>Need to bring Smaller Glaciers under the purview of Monitoring</b>	Having noted the threats posed by the melting of glaciers, both large as well as small which are more vulnerable to climate change, the Committee recommended the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation to take necessary steps to bring smaller water bodies/glacial lakes also under their purview for monitoring not only during monsoon period but throughout the year. <b>(Para 2.11)</b>
7.	<b>Need to have Robust Early Warning System</b>	Having observed the recent spike in incidents of mountainous hazards / disasters viz. Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), Landslide Lake Outburst Flood (LLOF), snow avalanches, cloud bursts and landslides underlining the paramount importance of having a robust early warning system, the Committee recommended the Department to take initiative for evolving a multi-hazard risk assessment approach. The Department, in consultation with other Government agencies like NDMA, Indian Meteorological Department and respective State Governments, particularly the State Government of Uttarakhand should establish a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System coupled with real-time coordinated mechanism under the aegis of a single nodal agency for regular monitoring and issuing of hazards / disasters warnings to all stakeholders in respect of potential mountainous hazards. <b>(Para 2.12)</b>

8.	<b>Need To strengthen functioning of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)</b>	<p>While noting that NDRF, a specialized rescue and response force, mandated to respond to national and man-made disasters, is not equipped with heavy equipments like earthmovers/ heavy drilling machines/ JCBs, modern muck cleaning instruments/equipments to deal with emergent situations etc., the Committee were of the view that NDRF should have its own fleet of aircraft instead of depending on the IAF/State Governments to provide choppers for ensuring timely arrival of NDRF rescue teams at disaster struck locations and avert delays. Accordingly, the Committee urged the Department of Water Resources, River Development &amp; Ganga Rejuvenation to take up the above mentioned suggestion with the Ministry of Home Affairs/NDMA. <b>(Para 2.15)</b></p>
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