

# SIKKIM NOW

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## Khangchendzonga Glacier receding slower, Rajya Sabha informed

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 01 Dec: Minister of State [independent charge] for Environment & Forests Jairam Ramesh, yesterday informed the Rajya Sabha that although the Khangchendzonga Glacier has been receding for the "last few decades", the rate of recession has been slower in recent times.

The MoS shared this information while responding to a query tabled by Sikkim's Rajya Sabha MP OT Lepcha.

"The study conducted by the Geological Survey of India indicates that the Kanchanzonga [sic] glacier in Sikkim is receding for the last few decades. However, the rate of recession has been slower in recent times and the study also estimated an annual retreat of 4.15 meters during 1986-2005," Mr. Ramesh stated in his written reply.

The melting of glaciers may increase the run-in off the Himalayan rivers initially, but it may ultimately lead to

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## Khangchendzonga...

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some reduction of water availability in the future, the response adds.

A national action plan on climate change was launched in June 2008, he informs further, explaining that this action plan envisages the na-

tional mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. "This mission would understand inter-alia, the phenomenon relating to the recession of the Himalayan glaciers and the ways of addressing the problem," the written reply adds.

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