GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4081
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 2021

LIGHTNING STRIKES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

4081. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in lightning strikes each year since 2018;
(b) whether an inquiry has been conducted regarding a possible correlation between increase in lightning strikes and climate change;
(c) if so, the findings thereof; and
(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) As per recent studies, lightning activity have shown increasing trend over India in past two decades. North-East, East and parts of peninsular India have registered a sharp increase of lighting over the past 2 decades. The increase is minimal over Central India and moderate over rest of the country. Like any other natural hazard, lightning also exhibit inter annular variability. As compared to 2019, there is a 25% increase in lightning strikes in 2020. However, in 2021, data till June shows 10% decrease in lightning strikes compared to corresponding period of 2020.

(b) No Sir. However, associated with the global warming, increase in various extreme weather conditions including lightning events have been observed in the country in line with increase in such events observed over various other parts of the globe.

(c) Doesn't arise.

(d) Lightning is a disastrous weather phenomena associated with thunderstorm. Ministry of Earth Sciences, through India Meteorological Department (IMD), issues forecast and warnings for thunderstorms and associated weather phenomena five days in advance with regular updates.

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