

Publication : The Times of India
 Date : Friday, February 05, 2010
 Edition : New Delhi
 Page : 14

Govt fully behind Pachauri: Ramesh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Thursday said the Indian government fully backed R K Pachauri, the beleaguered chairman of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Even as he took potshots at the weakness of the global climate science panel over the recent controversial revelations, Ramesh said the government supported Pachauri's continuation as IPCC head.

Ramesh, at the same time, announced that a scientist from India would now accompany Pachauri in his meetings of the bureau of the IPCC — the smaller set of 38 representatives that carry on the work on behalf of the 130-member country body. Subodh Kumar Sharma, advisor to the ministry and a long-standing participant in the climate science talks, is expected to represent India in the IPCC bureau meetings.

Ramesh said, "The Indian government is backing Pachauri to the hilt. Let there be no doubt on that. There is no wavering in the support of the Indian government. The



Minister of new and renewable energy Farooq Abdullah with actor Shilpa Shetty at the inauguration of International Climate Change Exhibition, organized by TERI in New Delhi

PM and others in the government are supporting him as chairman of IPCC."

India provides financial help to the scientific panel to run Pachauri's IPCC support office in India. It provides an annual grant for support staff and other functions of the office, which Ramesh justified with precedents of earlier chairmen of the scientific panel being financially backed by governments as well as the World Bank.

But the tenuous relations

between Pachauri and the government again came to the fore with sources indicating that the latter was not likely to participate in a closed door meeting of a select group of international negotiators that TERI will host as part of its Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. The idea of a closed-door meet of official negotiators from rich countries and others, to be also attended by the UN climate convention's executive secretary Evo De Boer, has not gone down well

IPCC chief faces fresh call to quit

The embattled head of UN's climate change panel, R K Pachauri, faced fresh pressure to step down with one of the leading figures in the environment movement saying that the Nobel Prize winning body needs a new leader to regain its credibility. Director of Greenpeace (UK), John Sauven said Pachauri made a flawed judgement by not registering the mistake made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which came to light ahead of the Copenhagen conference. PTI

with the government. Environment ministry officials refused to comment while TERI officials remained unavailable.

At the same time, Ramesh, who had minced no words in criticising Pachauri and the conclusions of IPCC on the rate of melting of Himalayan glaciers, was relatively easy on both on Thursday during his interaction with the media. Even while warning against 'climate evangelism' he backed the IPCC, calling it a respected institution.