

# GLOBAL WARMING AT ITS HIGHEST IN 1995.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? - THE FOSSIL FUELED HUMANS THEMSELVES!

### THE BOUNTIES: FLOODS, DROUGHTS, FIRES, PEST OUTBREAKS, RISING SEA LEVELS, SINKING OF SECRET BANK ACCOUNTS

*by Scientix*

**[Editorial Note:** - In the last fortnight of **June 1988**, the American Congress was warned by scientists that the global temperatures were at the highest that year; and that this was not due to natural causes, but squarely due to the human activity, particularly of burning fossil fuels by cars, factories and power plants. It is now reported that the year 1995 was hotter - the hottest in the known human history - with the average global temperature of 14.8°C. Between 1861 and 1890, it was 14°C; between 1961 and 1990 it was 14.4°C. This means it took 100 years to have the previous rise of 0.4°C, and only 5 years for the present rise of the same 0.4°C.

It was James Hassen of Nasa's Godard Institute of Space Studies, who had in 1988 warned the Senate Energy and Resources Committee in Washington about the rising temperatures. He has now in 1995 confirmed with no hesitation that the predictions of 1988 have come out true sooner than expected and the reason surely is the human activity. There is a body called IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change - which has also attributed the accelerating warming trends to the ever busy human activity of burning fossil fuels. (IPCC advises world governments on climate policy decisions).

The scenario is frightening. It is predicted authoritatively that the mercury will inch up by a further 1.8 to 6.3°C with an average of 3.6°C by 2100. This can unleash a series of catastrophe "floods, droughts, fires and pest outbreaks", says IPCC report. Ice in the world glaciers is melting at a much faster rate in the Alpine region since 1980's. One third to one half of the ice cover has vanished over the last century. Nations like Austria, Switzerland and France are more concerned and more worried. They may sink down, (with all the Swiss Bank Accounts of the mighty politico - business - builders - smugglers - giants). IPCC's report gloomily connects together the melting of mountain glaciers, global warming and human activities. In the following article, **Scientix** explains how the humans themselves have brought the doomsday nearer. - **Editor]**

The Mother-Earth is Grandma-Nature's greenhouse, not in the sense of green forests and dense vegetation. The word 'greenhouse' has a different meaning.

In temperate countries, the agriculturist have greenhouses i.e. places covered with glasswalls and roofs wherein they grow tropical plants by controlling the internal environment, particularly the temperature.

Our Earth itself is a good-sized greenhouse with two roof-tops, one above the other. 20 to 40 kilometers up, there is the "Ozone layer". Ozone is a gas, O<sub>3</sub>, (a chemical brother of oxygen, O<sub>2</sub>). The task assigned to it by the Omnipotent Agriculturist is to absorb the ultraviolet rays from the gushing radiations of the sun, so as to protect the life of the earthlings from a killing heat.

Below the ozone roof, there is another, a 'green house' roof. It is the earth's lower atmosphere containing a mixture of gases, that allow the sun's rays to pass through and reach the earth. This happens in such a way that not only the earth is warmed up to life-giving temperatures but also the heat is retained at the life-giving levels. But for this greenhouse roof, the earth would cool down as low as minus 18°C! The Omnipotent Farmer has arranged things in such a balance that just adequate amount of heat is lost; the rest remains around the earth, just sufficient to maintain life. This is achieved through carbon dioxide and water vapour in the atmosphere. It is a finely tuned temperature control. The quantity of carbon dioxide should remain at a particular level to entrap just the required heat. If carbon dioxide increases, the balance between the incoming and outgoing heat would be disturbed. More heat will remain within and the earth would warm up. This is

called global warming.

This is what is now happening to our globe, the earth, the house of the humans. The quantity of carbon dioxide is increasing every year and the temperature of the surface of the earth is rising; this can lead to catastrophes which will endanger the survival of the humans.

### **Who is responsible for the increase?**

The same humans whose home is the globe. Why! What are they doing? Their much boasted science and technology have thrust upon them ways of life, which shoot more and more carbon dioxide in the air.

When at the end of the last century, the western civilisation was boasting about the supremacy of the human intellect and piling up its industrialisation, Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius warned as early as in 1896 that burning coal might warm up the globe. He was a Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry (1903) for his work on electrolysis - the passing of electric currents in chemical liquids. He predicted that increases of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would raise the earth's average surface temperature. It was he who coined the expression "greenhouse effect".

For a thousand years before the so called industrial revolution, greenhouse gases had well preserved their levels. The proportion of carbon dioxide then was retained at 280 parts per million ('ppm' as it is scientifically called). The globe was happily habitable. At the time of Arrhenius's warning, it had risen to 300 ppm. By 1950, it was 310, and in the last about 45 years, it has risen to 350 ppm. plus.

### **What has this tail-less monkey done to increase CO<sub>2</sub> to this frightening extent?**

The first villain is the fossil-fuels. i.e. coal, oil and natural gas. They are believed to have been formed from the fossilised remains of plants that lived hundreds of millions of years ago. These fuels are the inseparable part of the present human life. They are used for industrial, commercial, residential, transportation and other purposes interwoven with our stay on the globe. This energy sector-as it is called-requires a huge chunk of fuels. Their burning emits such huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> that their share in the global warming is 46%. The pride, joy and love of the present humans, the motor car, is the most serious pollutant of air. Large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and other sister gas, carbon monoxide, is thrown out from the cars. Satan must be in direct charge of the human lure for motor cars; because in spite of the admitted global warming due to CO<sub>2</sub>, the **number of cars running on man's earth is rising faster than the number of humans!** In "Our Country, the Planet" (Limetree 1992) Shridath Rmphal (Commonwealth Secretary General, 1975-90) gives amazing figures. **"In 1950, there were 53 million cars on the World's roads, 76% of them in U.S.A. By 1988 there were over 400 million. By 2010, the number is expected to rise to 885 million and by 2025 to exceed 1.1 billion". The erudite author quotes Toronto star of 3-10-1991:**

**"An average of 33.4 million liters of gasoline was consumed each day in the province of Ontario alone, equivalent to the amount of water flowing over Niagra Falls every twelve Seconds" (p. 95)**

On page 92 of Ramphal's book there is a quotation from 'Far from paradise: The Story of Human Impact on Civilisation' by John Seymour and Herbert Girardet (London: Green Print: 1990). The author (Girardet) Says,

**"Without fuel fossils we would be different creatures ..... A man with a pick and shovel is a different creature from a man who operates a bucket-wheel excavator. Standing next to each other without their equipment they may look the same but in ecological terms they are as different as a mouse and a dinosaur....."**

Whilst the fossil fuels disturb the first roof-top above us, there is another human monster which depletes the second roof-top, the Ozone layer. That is CFC-Chloroflouro carbons. They are chemicals used in refrigerators, air conditioners, foam packaging, computer circuit cleaners, air fresheners, perfume sprinkling bottles. Their chemical properties sound very innocent: non-poisonous, nonflammable, stable, inert, cheap. But as gases released at the ground level, they drift upward and take eight years to reach the stratosphere. There they are attacked by ultraviolet light, releasing chlorine, which in turn reacts with ozone and converts it to oxygen. This has caused large holes in the Ozone layer and the ultra violet rays percolate down on the earth, raising the temperature of the earth, harming the food crops, and causing skin cancers to the humans.

The hole over the Antarctic was found on 23-9-1992 to measure 23 million sq. km. - 8.9 million sq. miles. This was 15% larger than in 1991. This information was brought by satellites, those sky-toys made by the humans themselves.

There is one more human activity which arises out of the greedy industrialisation, and causes global warming. Trees are intended by Nature to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> in day-time so that its level is properly maintained. But the humans are cutting down forests on huge scale. To give only two figures, 45% of tropical forests are already destroyed; and 550 Sq. kms. of them are being lost every day.

What are the effects of the warming earth? A rise of a degree or two can bring on the humanity serious calamities. Droughts will intensify; rainfall patterns will alter; sea will rise causing floods, storms and sinking of land; food production will be affected adversely; health of the humans will go hay-wire. The rising oceans will affect low lying areas all over the globe. China, Egypt and our neighbour Bangladesh will be most vulnerable. Our another neighbour at the other end, Maldives in the Indian Ocean, and island countries in South Pacific may sink and disappear. Cities like New York, Tokyo Leningrad, Melbourn and even Bombay will be in grave danger. The so called developed countries (i.e. countries of lust, greed and Godlessness) will dash to build defence systems to prevent gushing waters. (Builders of Bombay will perhaps rush to do their usual business).

Rushing waters will not be the only calamity from the rising global temperatures. The world will have a steep fall in the grain outputs. Some short-sightedly selfish scientists say that the global warming may increase some food products like rice in some countries, like Japan and even India. Even if this happens, it will be soon wiped away by the heavily changing climatic conditions.

What the lawyers call "acts of God" will now be "acts of man" - God the Almighty with His Prophets, and man, the mighty, with his profits.

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## **Oh, Tail-less Monkey! What Have You Done?**

There is environmental trends that threaten to radically alter the planet, (and) the lives of many species upon it, including the human species. Each year another 6 million hectares of productive dryland turns into worthless desert..... More than 11 million hectares of forests are destroyed yearly..... In Europe, acid precipitation kills forests and lakes and damages the artistic and architectural heritage of nations; it may have acidified vast tracts of soil beyond reasonable hope of repair..... The burning of fossil fuels puts into the atmosphere carbon dioxide, which is causing gradual global warming..... Other industrial gases threaten to deplete the planet's protective ozone shield to such an extent that the number of human and animal cancers would rise sharply and the oceans' food chain would be disrupted. Industry and agriculture put toxic substances into the human food chain and into underground water tables beyond reach of cleansing - *Gro Harlem Brundtland - Chairman, U.N. World Commission on Environment and Development in "Our Common Future"* (Oxford, N. Y. 1987)

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