

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:154

ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004

AGRICULTURAL FORECASTING BY REMOTE SENSING

Maken Shri Ajay

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether projects like Crop acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE) and Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based Observation (FASAL) in coordination with the Department of Space for authentic forecasting of agricultural production by remote sensing is on the anvil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): A plan scheme 'Crop Acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE)' is being implemented in collaboration with Department of Space (DOS). This scheme aims at developing and upgrading the methodology of area and pre-harvest production assessment of crops using remote sensing technology. In order to establish a mechanism for obtaining timely and reliable advance estimates of area and production, it has been decided to implement a project called 'Forecasting Agricultural Output Using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land-based observations' (FASAL), as an umbrella scheme. The FASAL project has been conceived after gaining experience in the use of remote sensing technique for estimating area and production for specified crops (covered under (CAPE)). It aims at integrating agro-meteorology, land and space borne measurements, using the principles of econometrics, to make early and in-season multiple forecasts of area and production of major crops. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is in the process of institutionalizing a mechanism for FASAL implementation around its National Crop Forecasting Centre (NCFC) along with the Department of Space (DOS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Remote Sensing Centres, Agricultural Departments and State Agricultural Statistics Authority (SASA). Initially, it is proposed to use/develop the technology for crop inventory assessment for eleven crops, namely, Rice (Kharif: K, and Rabi: R), Jowar (K & R), Maize, Bajra (K), Jute, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane, Groundnut (K & R), Rapeseed & Mustard and Wheat. To begin with, this assessment is planned at National and State levels.

(c): According to the proposal, implementation of FASAL project is envisaged in phases over the remaining period of Tenth Five Year Plan and the Eleventh Plan.