

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006
AGRICULTURE METEOROLOGY SERVICES
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of information being collected in Agriculture Meteorology Services;
- (b) the number of districts where Department of Meteorology is presently providing information by collecting the facts;
- (c) whether there is a major shift in monsoon rainfall pattern in the country for the past few years;
- (d) if so, the details and the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SISAL)

(a) India Meteorological Department (IMD) operates specialized Agrometeorological Observatories and collects the data on rainfall, temperature (maximum, minimum), humidity (morning & afternoon), wind direction and speed, duration of bright sunshine, evaporation, evapotranspiration, soil moisture and soil temperature. This information along with weather forecast and also information on crop stages and state and occurrence of pests and diseases at different parts of the country through the state Agriculture department are used for preparation of the farmer advisories.

(b) IMD is communicating crop specific advisories on real time basis to the farmers all over the Country through the well distributed network of Agromet Advisory Services Units of IMD. At present these services are being provided to 23 States.

Agro-advisories are also being prepared by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) based on its model forecast, the inputs received from its Agromet Advisory service (AAS) units spread over the country and India Meteorological Department. The country is divided into 127 Agro climatic zones with each zone covering about 3-5 districts. At present NCMRWF has established AAS units in 107 Agro climatic zones. Agromet Advisory Bulletins comprising of expert advice on crop, soils and weather are made available to the farming community through media and direct contact.

Based on a well established network of rain gauge stations, districtwise weekly rainfall summary is being provided to the Ministry of Agriculture in the weekly Crop Weather Watch Group meetings.

- (c) There is no major shift in monsoon rainfall pattern in the country as a whole during the past few years.
- (d) & (e) Does not arise in view of (c).