

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:284

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

MONSOON FORECAST

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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the minimum period of advance intimation needed by farmers regarding monsoon rains in the country;
- (b) whether the Union Government has any proposal to simplify its monsoon forecast by announcing monthly prediction of rainfall;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 284 FOR ANSWER ON 9th DECEMBER, 2009

(a) It is generally accepted that a minimum period of 7-days advance information about the likely monsoon rainfall is needed by the farming community for planning various agricultural operations. A weekly National Agro-meteorological Advisory Bulletin is issued state-wise with crop specific and region specific advisories to farmers based on the prevailing rainfall scenario and the coming week's rainfall forecast outlook.

(b)-(d) Currently, rainfall predictions are provided in four different temporal and spatial ranges as follows:

- i) Short range rainfall predictions, up to 3-days, generated daily for all 36 Meteorological sub-divisions of the country.
- ii) Medium range rainfall predictions (3-7 days) generated for the whole country.
- iii) Monthly prediction of rainfall for the months of July and August that are very crucial for the Kharif growing season.
- iv) Long range rainfall forecast for the southwest monsoon season (June-September) for the country as a whole and also for 4 homogeneous regions. The forecast is issued in 2 stages, first in April based on the data up to March and the second by end of June based on the data up to May.

Government of India has given highest priority for improvement of weather forecasting services by adopting latest methodologies and modeling frameworks as follows

- i) Improved numerical prediction models with 50km grid globally and 27kms/9kms over India.
- ii) Comprehensive modernization programme is currently underway with a focus on strengthening the existing observational network.
- iii) Focused R & D initiatives on understanding and prediction of the Indian Monsoon rainfall variability, increasing accuracies of medium range weather Predictions.