

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5464

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

AGRO- METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched a new agro-meteorological advisory service to offer more precise advice to farmers on weather forecast with a view to improve agricultural productivity in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing agro-meteorological service is being operated from the agro-climatic zones; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made through this service?

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) Yes Madam.

(b) Realizing the need of more accurate weather information for agricultural management at smaller geographical scale, the Agro-meteorological Advisory services (AAS) rendered till 2008 by the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) are now integrated for its expanded outreach. The service is operated through the 130 agro-meteorological units covering all agro-climatic zones of the country.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) Currently, AAS is operated twice a week (Tuesdays & Fridays) by disseminating day-to-day mean weather conditions for next 5-days, comprising forecast information on rainfall, cloud cover, maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed and direction, to its 23 State Agro-meteorological Centres. At the agro-meteorological unit level, crop specific farmers advisories, based on the district level forecasts received from the state centres, are generated and disseminated by a duly constituted panel of experts through mass media communication systems. Agro-meteorological units are also provided with cumulative weekly rainfall.

In addition, a weekly National Agro-meteorological Advisory Bulletin is issued to the Ministry of Agriculture and other users with state-wise crop specific and region specific advisories based on the prevailing rainfall scenario and the coming week's rainfall forecast outlook for planning appropriate agronomic policy options.