

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7420
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
TECHNOLOGY FOR ADVANCE ASSESSMENT OF CROPS AND DROUGHT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched an integrated centre to provide estimates of crop output and to assess the drought situation in the country through latest technologies;
- (b) if so, whether in collaboration with ISRO, the Government has developed the technology for advance assessment of crop and drought situation in the country; and
- (c) if so, the extent to which this technology is likely to help the Government to take advance steps for procurement of foodgrains and help the drought affected areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre has been set up in New Delhi as an attached office under the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. It was inaugurated on 23.04.2012. The Centre has been set up with a view to prepare multiple in-season crop forecasts by using temporal satellite imageries and in-situ as well as satellite based weather data. These forecasts will act as inputs to be used along with econometric & agro-meteorological parameters and ground observations to make estimates of area and yield of selected crops. The Centre will also use Remote Sensing techniques to monitor and assess the drought situation in the country at National/State/District level. Methodologies for crop forecast and drought assessment developed by ISRO for selected crops and States are being transferred to the new Centre. The forecasts made in the Centre would help the Government in assessing foodgrains requirements in the country much in advance and taking quick decisions on procurement strategy and imports/exports of the commodities.