

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:422

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013

STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN FORECASTING SYSTEM

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the Earth System Science Organization of the Ministry with the Natural Environment Research Council of the United Kingdom in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms and conditions of the said MoU;
- (c) the manner in which the said agreement would help us to improve our forecasting capability of various weather and climate related phenomena and natural hazards; and
- (d) the details of the status of the various ongoing research projects of these organisations and the benefit accrued or likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

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

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY (a) to (d) TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 422 REGARDING "STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN FORECASTING SYSTEM" TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) A MoU was signed on 1st March 2013 to establish an appropriate research cooperation umbrella between the UK and Indian earth system science, climate and environmental research communities. The endeavour of the MoU will be to promote collaboration in the area of Meteorology, Oceanography, Climate variability and change, hydrology, cryosphere, natural hazards and biodiversity by promoting information sharing and identification of new opportunities of collaboration through networking, exchange of scientific and technical capacities, and co-funding of research projects through joint calls.

(c) It is envisaged that the MoU provides a suitable joint research and development mechanism to address some of the significant scientific challenges in the Asian region relating to improved understanding of the regional scale monsoon; the possible influence of weather and climate circulation patterns of northern Europe; and the important (and poorly understood) interactions between climate, glaciers, groundwater and whole sustainability of water resources.

(d) Under the theme of Changing Water Cycle, 5 joint research proposals have so far been undertaken. A joint meeting to review the progress of the projects was conducted on 7-8 February 2013 in Delhi in which 10 scientists from UK have participated along with 15 scientists of India. The expenditure to be incurred by both the parties is generally based on the principle of parity. The share of current committed funding for the five projects is Rs 20 crores (Â£ 2.7 million) (NERC-UK Component) and Rs 12.5 crore (MoES-Indian component). The formulation of new joint call for inviting collaborative research proposals under monsoon research theme is finalized for which NERC authorised a Â£ 3 million investment for supporting identified UK research groups to work with Indian groups.