

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2873

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007

WEATHER FORECAST

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of advance weather forecasting in the country;
- (b) the manner in which it is beneficial for the farmers in protecting their crops from natural calamities like floods and droughts; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness of weather forecasting among farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Advance weather forecasting is provided in different temporal and spatial ranges and is issued by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF), Ministry of Earth Sciences. Details of rainfall predictions that are important for agriculture are given below:

- i) Short range rainfall predictions, upto 3 days, are generated daily for all 36 Meteorological sub-divisions in the country.
- ii) Medium range rainfall predictions (3-7 days) are generated for the whole country.
- iii) 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 with the data up to March and the second by end of June with the data up to May.

(b): Specific weather information helps farmers to optimize agricultural practices including input use, irrigation management and crop/animal protection from adverse weather events etc. In order to meet needs of the farming community, IMD is rendering Agro-Meteorological Advisory Service (AAS) in the country and provides weather-based agro-advisories to assist farmers to take decisions in tune with prevailing and prognosticated weather conditions.

(c): Advisory bulletins prepared are disseminated by different modes of mass communication. The bulletins are broadcasted by the All India Radio and telecasted by Doordarshan. The salient features of advisory bulletins are published in the local newspapers. The bulletins are also kept on different web pages of IMD/NCMRWF/Universities for access by the user community. To create awareness about the service, interactions are organized with farming community through farmers` meets and kisan mela. Also, radio/TV talks are given by the scientists, and popular articles are published in print media.