GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *310
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

REAL TIME WEATHER INFORMATION FOR FARMERS

***310. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing real time information to farmers on weather conditions such as floods or drought, availability of water for irrigation and crop prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when Government would be able to start providing such information, especially in the backdrop of the fact that the country has been hit by drought followed by floods this year?

ANSWER
MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)- (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY (a) to (b) TO STARRED QUESTION NO. *310 REGARDING "REAL TIME WEATHER INFORMATION FOR FARMERS" TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016.

(a-b) Yes Sir. The Crop Weather Watch Group of the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE coordinates with India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutions and the State Governments to review on a weekly basis (on every Friday) the prevailing and ensuing weather conditions as they impact on agriculture, water level in reservoirs, progress of sowing, crop health including incidence of pest attacks and availability of inputs etc.

During the meeting, IMD gives a brief report on the prevailing weather patterns in the country during last week along with expected weather patterns in the coming week. On the assessment of the outcomes of these meetings, remedial action is suggested if required.

Monitoring of the daily rainfall activity over the country is carried out by IMD to regularly assess and identify zones of deficit rainfall leading to drought conditions. The rainfall statistics is shared with Department of Agriculture on daily basis. However, the declaration of drought in a particular area/region is done by the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with various state governments.

In order to meet specific requirements of flood forecasting, which is provided by Central Water Commission (CWC), IMD operates Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs) at thirteen locations viz., Agra, Ahmedabad, Asansol, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lucknow, New Delhi, Patna, Srinagar , Bengaluru and Chennai. Apart from this, IMD also supports Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) by providing Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) for Damodar river basin areas for their flood forecasting activities.

IMD in association with Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) is disseminating agro-meteorological advisories to the farmers through different communication platforms like All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan, Private TV and radio channels, Newspaper and Internet, SMS and IVRS under Public Private Partnership mode, Reuter Market Light, Handygo, NOKIA-HCL, Mahindra Samriddhi, Reliance Foundation and IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited (IKSL). In addition, agro-meteorological advisories are also disseminated through Kisan Portal (http://farmer.gov.in) launched by the Ministry of Agriculture. At present, 19.51 million farmers are directly getting benefits by the AAS bulletins issued by IMD and Ministry of Agriculture.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATION & FARMERS WELFARE has implemented the National Agriculture Market (NAM) www.enam.gov.in e-market platform that would be deployed in selected 585 regulated markets across the country.

The NAM Portal provides a single window service for all Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) related information and services. This includes commodity arrivals & prices, buy & sell trade offers, provision to respond to trade offers, among other services. While material flow (agriculture produce) continues to happen through mandis, an online market reduces transaction costs and information asymmetry.

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