

(b) if so, the details thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Continuous efforts are put by India Meteorological Department (IMD) along with other Research and Development (R & D) institutions to improve the climate forecasts on monthly and seasonal scale to help the farmers.

(b) The following steps have been taken to help the farming community;

- (i) An experimental extended range forecast assessment in the 15-20 day range has been put under extensive performance evaluation to provide an additional rainfall outlook up to 15 days beyond the on-going weekly agro-meteorological advisory bulletins.
- (ii) A new Climate Forecast System (CFS), comprising of coupled ocean-atmospheric model adapted from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA along with other climate information generation tools, is under implementation on High Performance Computing (HPC) Systems at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and IMD.

#### **Interlinking of rivers by China**

†1559. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR :

SHRI PRABHAT JHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that China is working on large projects of interlinking other rivers with Tibet sector and the water emanating from this place would not reach India causing drying up of several rivers;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the pressure mounted so far by Government against the attitude of China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, who have said such reports are inconsistent with the facts. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's national interest and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.

#### **Agreement with Bangladesh and Pakistan for minority people**

†1560. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA :

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether agreements had been signed with Bangladesh and Pakistan to protect the life, property and dignity of minority people living there;

(b) if so, whether there is any monitoring system to ensure its compliance;

(c) whether a report thereto has been prepared, if so, whether it has been placed in the House; and

(d) the extent of increase or decrease in their population till date since the inception of these nations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) The Nehru-Liaquat Agreement, signed between India and Pakistan on April 8, 1950 stipulates that "Governments of India and Pakistan solemnly agree that each shall ensure, to the minorities through-out its territory, complete equality of citizenship, irrespective of religion, a full sense of security in respect of life, culture, property and personal honour, freedom of movement within each country and freedom of occupation, speech and workshop, subject to law and morality". In respect of migrants from East Bengal, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura, the two Governments agreed to ensure, *inter alia*, freedom of movement, protection in transit, freedom to remove movable personal effects, protect the right of ownership provided the migrants came back by 31.12.1950. Under paragraph 'F' of the Agreement, Governments of India and Pakistan agreed to set up Minority Commissions, "one for East Bengal, one for West Bengal and one for Assam" to observe and report on the implementation of the Agreement and to advice on action to be taken on their recommendations. After the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, those Commissions no longer exist. The Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

No separate agreement has been signed with Bangladesh to protect the life property and dignity of minorities.

(d) It is understood that the population of the minority community in Bangladesh has decreased from around 13.5% in 1974 to around 10.5% in 2001 of the total population. According to 1998 census, the population of minorities in Pakistan is 3.72% (Christians-1.59%, Hindus (Jati)-1.6%, Qadani (Ahmadi)-0.22%, Scheduled Castes-0.25% and Others-0.07%).

#### **Possibility of attacks on High Commissions**

1561. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware that the terror groups had plans to target Indian High Commissions located in various foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken up the matter with the various foreign countries where possible terror attacks are expected;