

(d) The available conservation staff of ASI is fully engaged with conservation work which ensures the transference of skill and technology to regular staff.

Gorkha Fort at Nalapani in Dehradun

†2174. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to declare the Gorkha Fort at Nalapani in Dehradun, a protected monument;

(b) if so, by when it would be declared a protected monument; and

(c) whether with the declaration of the Gorkha Fort, a protected monument, Government plans to identify the entire region as a tourist zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) There is no proposal with the Archaeological Survey of India to declare Gorkha Fort at Nalapani, Dehradun as a monument of national importance.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Advanced satellite data to predict monsoon

2175. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN:

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether climate change has made weather forecast difficult for the India Meteorological Department and unpredictable monsoon and drought can cause heavy losses to our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the United States is likely to provide India with advanced satellite data to predict and track the monsoon with a greater degree of certainty and reducing chances of economic dislocation and loss of lives as a result of drought and floods;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indian scientists at present predict the monsoon only one or two days in advance and the new system would allow the scientists to predict rainfall fifteen days in advance; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) As of now, no conclusive evidence exists to attribute the Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM) variability to climate change. The medium and long range prediction of the monsoon along with associated extreme weather events

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is highly challenging scientifically. Nonetheless, continuous efforts are made by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to enhance the skill of weather forecasts. Government of India has taken up a massive modernization programme of IMD with a major emphasis on establishing a robust and modern observational infrastructure, high-performance computing systems and Doppler Weather Radars in the country for facilitating the improved forecast service. Phase - I of the IMD's modernization programme with an allocation of Rs. 920 crores is underway.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Under the existing meteorological data exchange policies of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), all available data is exchanged freely across its member countries. Global satellite meteorological data is also exchanged bi-laterally among the countries, including between India and USA as a part of various bilateral cooperation agreements. India is already using global satellite data in its analysis-forecast system for generating medium range (upto 7 days in advance) weather forecasts.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Agro-advisories based on 7-days weather forecasts has been operating since Monsoon - 2005. Further, in an attempt to provide an additional rainfall outlook up to 15-days, experimental extended range forecast assessment has been put under extensive performance evaluation.

Condition of Pakistan for talks

2176. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has put up some conditions for resumption of second round of talks at foreign secretaries level in Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is ready for talks with Pakistan on their terms?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) During the recent Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi on February 25, 2010. Pakistan stressed that the Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan should be restored. It was conveyed to the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan that the resumption of such a process would have to await the restoration of greater trust and confidence. The two Foreign Secretaries agreed to remain in touch.

Indo-Saudi Joint Commission

2177. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Saudi Arabia have recently agreed to grant long-term multiple entry visas to business persons and also entered into agreements on Science and Technology, oil, gas and minerals in the recently held Indo-Saudi Joint Commission;