

#### **National Mission on Monsoon**

3735. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that had been taken by his Ministry to set up the National Mission on Monsoon;

(b) whether Government has made any study about the failure of the current models which were hitherto followed for forecasting the monsoon; and

(c) if so, whether with the establishment of National Mission on Monsoon, the handicap of the current model could be overcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has proposed National Mission on Monsoon to develop most representative and advanced dynamic model framework for India for forecasting monsoon rainfall and its variability in various space and time scales.

On 16th January 2010, National level consultation meeting was organized with experts working in the atmospheric and oceanic modeling. Experts from the MoES units, viz. India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) etc., also participated in the meeting to finalise the scope, identification/shortlisting of suite of models, activity schedule, roles of various participating groups, time frame, etc. for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) alongwith implementation mechanism.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The accomplishment of accurate medium and long range prediction of the monsoon rainfall along with associated variability (interannual and intraseasonal) is a highly challenging task scientifically. At present no dynamic model, globally, has a proven track record of accurately predicting the summer monsoon rainfall and its variability. The National Mission on Monsoon envisages developing India specific dynamical model framework that would outperform the existing suite of models available today.

#### **Nuclear agreement between US and Pakistan**

3736. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent strategic talks between the US and Pakistan which included civil nuclear agreement between them on the lines of Indo-US civil nuclear agreement;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken/proposes to take up this with the US;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (d) Government have seen media reports about a possible nuclear deal between the US and Pakistan. In this context, Government have taken note that US officials have stated that they are focused on helping Pakistan meet its energy needs by other means.

#### **Shifting of Afghan policy**

3737. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is shifting its Afghan policy by agreeing to talk to Taliban; and

(b) if so, the details and also reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Discussion during Minister's visit to China**

3738. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister visited China, recently;

(b) if so, the main point discussed between the two countries;

(c) if so, the outcome of the discussions held with Chinese and agreement reached between the two countries;