

Area specific forecasting by IMD

55. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the reasons that the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is not able to issue area-specific forecasting to tailor crop plans according to the anticipated weather conditions;
- (b) whether it is a fact that even ICAR has demanded IMD to issue such forecasting; and
- (c) if so, the efforts IMD is making or proposes to make for such forecasting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) IMD is already operating district level agro-advisory service (AAS) in association with State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras of ICAR and others in disseminating the weather based AAS in a truly customised manner to plan district scale and agro-climatic zone scale (cluster of districts) for planning appropriate crop specific agricultural operations respectively. AAS is operated twice weekly now and has a current registered SMS subscriber base of about 2.5 million farmers across the country.

Under the AAS, IMD is issuing quantitative area specific weather forecast (district level) on every Tuesday and Friday along with weekly cumulative rainfall based up to 5 days. The quantitative forecast is provided for 7-crop sensitive weather parameters such as maximum and minimum temperatures, rainfall, cloud cover, wind speed and direction, morning and evening relative humidity.

- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Earthquake risk evaluation

†56. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various cities are being declared more sensitive for earthquake after devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.