

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) As per the Investments Schedule of Balance Sheet of M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as on 31.3.2011, there is no direct holding of RIL in media houses/companies (listed and unlisted) print/broadcast/production. However, company's consolidated Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2011 discloses that it holds 100% in Reliance Digital Media Limited (RDML) through Reliance Retail Limited (RRL), its subsidiary company.

(b) The Investment of M/s. Reliance Industries Limited in M/s. Reliance Digital Media Limited through M/s. Reliance Retail Limited does not violate the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) Does not arise.

**Meeting of requirements under UN Convention on corruption**

4077. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how Government proposes to meet the requirements of the "UN Convention on corruption related matters", so that foreign public officials are also booked in bribery and similar cases, to facilitate international co-operation in trans-border commercial activities;

(b) whether any amendments are being contemplated in the Companies Act under which all those involved in the graft cases, both in public and private sectors are covered; and

(c) if so, by when this would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**New innovations and initiatives in meteorological services**

4078. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new innovations have been made and new initiatives taken in meteorological and observational services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent these innovations and initiatives are being implemented upto the local and village level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Integrated Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (AAS) is rendered now on twice-weekly basis in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc. Realized weather of the previous week and quantitative district level weather forecast for next 5 days in respect of rainfall, maximum temperature, minimum temperature, wind speed, wind direction, relative humidity and clouds as well as weekly cumulative rainfall forecast are provided. Further, crop specific advisories, generated in partnership with SAUs and ICAR, to help the farmers are issued and widely disseminated. The AAS of IMD has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers at the district level twice-weekly through different print/visual/Radio/IT based wider dissemination media including short message service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS).

Under Modernization-Phase-I of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), High Performance Computing Systems (HPCS), 8 Doppler Weather Radars (DWR), 675 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and 750 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) have been commissioned covering all districts of India. Commissioning of the state-of-the-art observing, monitoring/early warning and data visualization/information processing and communication technologies, several manual operations have been fully automated. All the manpower that was engaged earlier for such manual operations have been provided due orientation, training and skill development opportunities not only to attain appropriate operating skills of advanced technological platforms but also contribute efficiently to the quality enhancement through customization of sector specific warning and forecasting services.

Commissioning of the high performance computing (HPC) system has provided opportunity to assimilate satellite radiance data in to the global/regional forecast systems and to enhance the spatial resolution of the global forecast systems from about 50 km grid scale to about 22km grid scale. The performance evaluation of the new global forecast system has demonstrated enhanced forecast skill quantitatively.

(c) AAS to the country at the district level has already been made fully operational by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) during the XI Plan. A third party evaluation carried out by the National Center for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has brought out the usefulness of the mobile and IVRS usage in dissemination of advisories on different farming operations. The report says that the farmers find the information disseminated, through the effective IT dissemination modes, very useful. At present, the AAS products are disseminated through SMS and IVRS to 2.74 million farmers in the country through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. As per the report of NCAER, 24% of the farmers are using AAS advisories.

#### **Delay in rain forecast**

4079. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reason why the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) delayed its long-range forecasts for the crucial annual rainy season from mid April;

(b) how SACOF-3's (South Asian Climate Outlook Forum) non-committal predictions helped IMD in delaying its annual prediction;

(c) whether according to forecasts by various agencies, there is a possibility of development of weak negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event during the later parts of 2012; and

(d) whether there is a consensus amongst experts of large uncertainty in the forecast information this year and if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) IMD issues monsoon season rainfall forecast for the country as a whole in two stages-in April and in June. Generally, April forecast is issued in the second half of the month as required global data measured up to end of March is the critical forecast analysis/assessment and such data becomes available only around 10th April. In recent years, IMD also utilizes experimental/operational rainfall forecasts along with projected sea surface temperature anomalies and more so El-Nino Predictions from many global climate centres for wider scrutiny and analysis and such inputs are updated normally during 15th-25th of every month. Depending upon the availability of these global inputs, IMD had to adjust the date of issue of monsoon season rainfall forecast for the country.