

श्री विलासराव देशमुख: सर, हमने जो 40 साल से स्टडी किया है, उससे यह पता चला है कि जल स्तर 1.29 millimeter per year की गति से बढ़ रहा है। इसका जो इम्पैक्ट होता है, इसके कारण एक तो वहां पर erosion होता है, फिर खेती लायक जो जमीन होती है या गांव होते हैं, उनके ऊपर भी इसका असर पड़ता है। लेकिन इस पर जो पूरी स्टडी है, वह Environment Ministry के द्वारा हो रही है। Climate change की वजह से इसके ऊपर असर हो रहा है या नहीं, उसके बारे में Environment Ministry अलग से स्टडी कर रही है। जहां तक हमारी स्टडी है, उसके अनुसार कोई इतना ज्यादा असर होने की अब तक कोई खबर नहीं है।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 10 year's time, it has been estimated that a large portion of our coastal area is going to be submerged. There are many people who live in coastal areas. We have a large coastal belt in India. What is the option with the Government? What actions has the Government of India taken to protect these people and to make sure that there are other options available for them because the fishermen largely live in coastal areas and very close to the sea? Then there are so many other things which are being done there. So what option the Government has for these people?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, this question is regarding Gujarat.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Sir, the Minister can even answer for Gujarat.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, as I said earlier, if there is any cyclonic information, then definitely we can take immediate steps. As per the study which has been made, the normal sea growth is just 1.29 millimetre per year. If there is any seismic warning or cyclone warning, there is a Centre for that. We can inform the State Government as to how much area is going to be submerged and ask them to take immediate steps. The evacuation process can start there. I don't think there is any major problem in that.

#### **Efficacy of SMS and IVRS Services**

\*344. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the SMS and Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) services have been successful for the farmers;

(b) whether the Ministry plans to introduce a dedicated. Agromet (Agriculture Meteorological) service for the farmers: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

- (a) The Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (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 IVRS. 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.
- (b) Yes Madam. Integrated AAS to the country at the district level has already been fully operational by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) during the XI Plan. The AAS rendered on twice-weekly basis in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) etc.
- (c) Realised 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 in taking farm level decisions are issued and widely disseminated. As per NCAER report, 24% of the farmers are using AAS advisories.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the excellent services they are providing to the farmers through SMS, IVRS and Agromet Service. Sir, our country is having a population of 112 billion and more than 60 per cent of our population is dependent only on agriculture. The Spoken Web Service is an excellent boon to the farmers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: How far is the Agromet Advisory successful in Tamil Nadu? What is the worth of this service economically?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, this particular scheme, we are implementing through PPP mode. There are different agencies working in different States. So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, I don't have the correct figures as to how many farmers have been benefited. But I would like to request the State Governments to come forward. I would like to say this on the floor of this House that the State of Maharashtra is making maximum use of this particular service because the SMS charges are being paid by the State Government. More and more farmers are using this service. Other States can also come forward and take active

part in it. This service is given through our State universities and the Centres, which we have created through the ICAR. So, with these services, more and more farmers are being protected, and the results are very positive. And, I would like to inform this House that nine per cent farmers reported that their costs have reduced, and twenty-three per cent of farmers reported that they are making profits. So, timely information is provided to them, and they are being benefited. So, I would appeal to all the State Governments to come forward and make use of these services.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Sir, I hope that the Minister will write to the Tamil Nadu Government, so that other than Maharashtra, the Tamil Nadu Government also will come forward to pay the SMS charges. My next supplementary is this. The Spoken Web Services, that is, the Agromet Services, are not on par with the demand. As per the 2009 Report, only 9,000 farmers are using these services, and by 2017, they hope that they will reach 20 million farmers. As of now, that is, by this year, they have only reached 2.5 lakh farmers. So, I would like to know from you whether the Ministry is contemplating on educating the farmers through non-conventional methods for effective use of all the advisory systems introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Otherwise, what kind of incentives and awareness drive has the Ministry initiated to engage farmers into using Agromet services?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, various awareness campaigns and workshops are being conducted by various States in local languages because people want to have their information in local languages. Then, Krishi Vigyan Kendra is also organizing melas for farmers. Agro fares are also conducted to create this awareness. So, from our side, we are ready to provide all help required. And, I am likely to write to all the State Governments to come forward and make use of these particular services.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Sir, in Madhya Pradesh, the State Government is using SMS for procurement of wheat. A very peculiar situation has arisen over there that the farmers get their SMS and bring their foodgrains for the State Government to procure them, but, unfortunately, the Central Government is not providing enough *vaardhan* to them. So, they cannot make use of that system. So, will the hon. Minister kindly tell the Minister for Food and Public Distribution to supply those *vaardhans* that the State Government had asked for?

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, if you want, I can answer.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to make the necessary provision.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Otherwise, Sir, it is creating a very bad situation.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Vaardhan will be provided.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, it is a very important question. My supplementary is regarding service of ASM and IMD. In my State, we are suffering

very much due to rainfall, heavy winds and other natural calamities. I would like to know whether this system can be adopted in various districts there, and whether the Ministry has taken steps to give advance information regarding humidity, cloud, temperature, wind, rainfall, etc. in our State for the benefit of the farmers and other people there because there have been loss of lives, crops and even lands. So, I would like to know whether any steps have been taken to provide these services in our State so that our people can get the benefit.

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, this IM Department is already having their own automatic weather stations and we also have automatic rain gauges, but the hon. Member has asked something to be done in his own State because we have to expand this service and for that, we are definitely planning to expand this to all the states and steps will be taken by that Department.

SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Sir, the IBM had earlier refused any connection with the Agromet service. Which company has the Ministry engaged to provide Agromet services?

SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH: Sir, there are various companies coming forward, like IFFCO, which is also doing this service. Then, there are other companies like the Tata Consultancy Services. There are various companies which are coming forward and we are providing them with the required information.

#### **Withdrawal of additional power from the grid**

\*345. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has warned the companies of penal action for over-drawing electricity from the grid and also directed the utilities to purchase power from short term open markets and has prohibited overdrawal from the grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also stated that the overdrawal of power by industries is an unauthorized use of electricity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### ***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present the Grid Code specifies a permissible frequency band of 49.5 to 50.2 Hz for safe and smooth operation of the grid. The Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) monitor the overdrawal from the grid and report violations to