

(b) Yes Sir. One of the IAs - Dynamical Seasonal Prediction of Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall (Establishment of Monsoon desk) was signed during the visit of President Obama in November, 2010 under which Indian and US scientists are working jointly. A "Monsoon Desk" along with a dedicated scientist has been established in this regard. **The Government of India has committed to provide \$480,000 over a period of five years (₹ 2.4 crores approximately) for activities associated with establishment and maintenance of the "Monsoon Desk". So far an amount of ₹ 1.53 crores (US \$284668) has been released to NCEP, USA for the purpose.** Indo-US scientists are currently sharing the knowledge and skills to improve the Climate Forecast System (CFS) for long-range forecasts of the monsoon and a first variant of Indian Earth System Model has already been developed as a part of overall joint efforts to improve the climate forecasting system.

(c) Yes Sir. The main objective of the agreement is to develop dynamical weather prediction models with a full understanding of the Indian monsoon and associated rainfall characteristics as India's dependence on monsoon rains for the major share of agricultural production.

Allotment of land on concessional rates for public utility services

†*426. DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether land on concessional rates is provided by Government to private institutes/individuals which is meant for public utility services;

(b) if so, the purpose for which land is given in this manner and the details of the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether terms and conditions regarding allotment of land are followed strictly; and

(d) if not, the action Government takes against those who violate these terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise in view of the reply at (a) above.

Census of birds and animals of endangered species

*427. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of birds and animals of endangered species is decreasing rapidly;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.