

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes Sir. It has already been launched in 2012.

(b) Under the National Monsoon Mission initiative, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), NOIDA have embarked upon to build a state-of-the-art coupled ocean atmospheric model for (a) improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and (b) improved prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) so that forecast skill gets quantitatively improved further for operational services of India Meteorological Department (IMD).

(c) The present long range forecast system based on the statistical models has shown some useful skill in predicting all India seasonal rainfall including the deficient monsoon season rainfall during 2015. However, in order to overcome the limitations of the statistical models used so far, dynamical coupled ocean-atmospheric model framework is put under exhaustive performance evaluation under the National Monsoon Mission.

For monsoon predictions, a state of the art dynamical prediction system was implemented for generating operational forecasts. These forecasts are generated by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and are shared with the India Meteorological Department for operational use.

Desalination plants for coastal cities

2795. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has considered procuring desalination plants for coastal cities hit by drought for urban, industrial and agricultural purposes;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the cost-benefit analysis of the desalination plants; and

(c) whether the Ministry has consulted with foreign Government where this system is in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Earth Sciences has no proposal for procuring desalination plants. However, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous Institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences, has indigenously designed, developed and demonstrated desalination plants for conversion

of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology. The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water. This technology is found suitable for the Lakshadweep Islands.

(b) No, Sir. However, the cost per liter of desalination would depend on the technology used and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. According to the cost estimates made by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the operational costs per litre of desalinated potable water is about 61 paise for island based plants.

(c) Does not arise.

Attack on people from foreign countries

2796. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of attacks on Africans and people from the other countries in the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) what are the reasons that the number of incidents of attacks on Africans are increasing over the years, particularly in major cities of the country; and

(c) the preventive and other steps the Ministry is taking to prevent recurring of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) The incidents of attacks on foreign nationals are criminal acts perpetrated by anti-social and criminal elements and should not be construed as racist attacks. Whenever attacks on foreign nationals, including Africans, are brought to the notice of the Ministry of External Affairs, we take up the matter with the State Governments concerned and request an investigation into the incident. The State Governments are sensitised of the need to ensure the safety of foreigners and take action against the perpetrators, given that law and order is a State subject and that such incidents generate negative publicity that adversely affects India's image.

(c) In order to ensure that these incidents of violence against foreign nationals, including Africans, do not recur, several remedial steps were taken. The External Affairs Minister wrote to the Chief Ministers of States having large numbers of Africans and requested them to take steps to ensure their safety and security. These measures include increased police patrolling, community sensitisation and