

**Upgradation of IMD**

1191. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of rapidly growing indigenous technology, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is lagging behind;

(b) if so, whether Government is in the process of upgrading infrastructure and technology of IMD to improve forecast with accuracy and speed;

(c) the total financial allocation made by Government for this purpose; and

(d) whether Government also proposes to establish more IMD stations in Maharashtra, looking at frequent history of drought, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) No, Sir. There is no reason to carry such impression about the performance of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that operates a dedicated weather and climate monitoring, detection and warning services useful for various sectors of economy. The weather forecasting systems in the country are comparable to most of the countries in the world with respect to weather forecasting. Efforts are continuously made to enhance the level of efficiency of the forecasting systems. During the past few years, the IMD has been continuously improving weather prediction services in terms of accuracy, lead time and associated impact. Manifestation of such quantitative improvement may be seen with accurate prediction of Monsoon 2015 and Very Severe Cyclonic Storms "Phailin", "Hudhud" and the heavy rainfall events during monsoon season of 2014 and 2015. The Deep depression 8-10 November, 2015 which crossed Tamil Nadu coast near Pudducherry was correctly predicted. The severe weather resulted from the extremely heavy rainfall had been accurately predicted well in advance by IMD.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Year-wise allocation of funds in IMD during Twelfth Five Year Plan are indicated below:

Financial Year	Funds allocated (₹ in crores)
2012-13	206.00
2013-14	200.00
2014-15	190.00
2015-16	174.18
2016-17	241.60

(d) No, Sir. However, augmentation of the observing system networks for the upgradation of IMD is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.

#### **Talks with China on border dispute**

1192. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any dialogue with China during the recent visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding border dispute of Arunachal Pradesh as claimed by China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) and (b) Prime Minister Modi paid an official visit to China from 14-16 May, 2015. The discussions with Chinese leadership were comprehensive and substantive. Various issues of mutual significance and concern were discussed in a frank and cordial manner. The two sides emphasized their policy of attaching priority to the development of good-neighbourly and friendly bilateral relations and agreed to build a closer developmental partnership as a core component of bilateral relations. Both sides have expressed their commitment to seeking an early resolution of the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India. This has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side on several occasions, including at the highest level.

#### **Benefits for being a member of BRICS**

1193. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any benefits have accrued to India for being a member in the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) as well as BRICS Bank, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether being a member in the BRICS, would benefit India's entry into NSG, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) All members of BRICS grouping benefit from its collective strength by way of consultation and cooperation on economic issues of mutual interests, as well as topical global issues, such as, international terrorism, climate change, food and energy security, reforms of global governance institutions, etc.