

through activities undertaken for S&T awareness creation and popularization, entrepreneurship development, bio-technology applications, natural resource data management micro hydel and targeted S&T based interventions for weaker sections, women, scheduled castes and tribes etc.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prediction of monsoon and drought situation

1771. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meteorological Department is not well-equipped to predict the arrival of Monsoon or the drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the Meteorological Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. IMD is fairly equipped to predict the arrival of monsoon and also the quantum of rainfall expected during the season as a whole which include the probability of drought also. However, the intra-seasonal variability, both in space and time, is not well understood due to lack of high resolution numerical models, especially tuned to tropical weather condition and matching high resolution weather data.

(c) A comprehensive review of the infrastructure required for achieving high resolution weather forecast both, in time and space, was carried out. A proposal to upgrade technology for effecting improvement in observing, forecasting, product generation and dissemination system is being submitted for consideration by the Government.

Failure of Meteorological Department in prediction

1772. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meteorological Department has badly failed in forecasting weather and its estimates have always been proving wrong;