three years the Department of Science and Technology has supported several research projects in Gujarat area of better earthquake hazard assessment.

Weather forecast

2520. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India would be among the select group of Nations to have a state of the art meteorological system to forecast weather 20 or 25 days in advance;

(6) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how would it prepare the farmers to face agriculture-eventualities like floods and droughts; and

(d) what are the main functions and benefits of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) There is an effort to have better and state of the art observational system to improve the forecast abilities of the India Meteorological Department. Presently an extended range forecast system is being developed jointly with IIT Delhi in which a number of other institutions such as National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad are also participating. It is a multi-Institutional effort to develop climate model and acquire application experience from international organizations for climate risk management in agriculture. The project is being funded by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is likely to be completed in 3 years. After the development and validation of the new model, the forecasts will be operationalised by India Meteorological Department. This is likley to give sufficient lead time to the concerned agencies to prepare the farmers to undertake corrective measures in crop planning. This will also help farmers to prepare them to face eventualities like drought and floods. In trun, the forecast will help in increasing the agricultural production.