

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th April, 2010

HEAT WAVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

***467 SHRI P. T. THOMAS:**
SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various parts of the country including Kerala are experiencing severe hot conditions during the summer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the States most affected by the severe heat waves and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to address the impact of adverse weather conditions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *467 FOR ANSWER ON 28th APRIL 2010.

- (a) Yes Madam.
- (b) Severe heat wave conditions (6-7°C above normal) persisted over Orissa and Jharkhand as short spells (few days) during 2nd and 3rd week of April. Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan experienced severe heat wave conditions during (8-12 and 15-20 April); Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 8-12 April 2010. Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha and Gujarat region also experienced heat wave conditions during 3rd week of the April. The maximum temperature in Kerala was appreciably above normal (3-4°C above normal) during second week of March and second and third week of April. However, this is not considered as severe heat wave conditions. Reasons for the heat wave conditions are:
- (i) Western disturbance activity this year blocked the cold air incursion from the hills of north India leading to the persistence of anomalous anti-cyclonic flow over northwest and central India which caused warming. This warming, when combined with lack of moisture and also cloudless clear sky resulted in persistent high temperatures.
- (ii) Over other parts of the country, lack of moisture transport resulted in to the suppression of thunderstorm activity which helps to reduce the temperature.
- (c) Yes Madam.
- (d) A significant increase in the frequency, persistence and spatial coverage of heat wave/ severe heat wave conditions have been observed during the recent decades of 1991-2000 and 2001-2010 as compared to earlier decades 1971-80 and 1981-90.
- (e) India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues heat wave warnings (48 hours in advance) to concerned state governments and their disaster management authorities. Beginning February 2010, IMD has started displaying prognosticated maximum temperature anomalies on weekly and monthly basis on its website. Specific remedial actions are taken by various State Governments.
