

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 904
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd March, 2010

IMPACT OF EL NINO

904. SHRI K. J. S. P. Reddy:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the EL Nino conditions have contributed to the weak monsoon and drought in India among other factors;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Scientists have failed to find such conditions in advance;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the role of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in this regard?

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) Yes Madam. While issuing forecasts for the monsoon-2009 rainfall over the country, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has taken into account the impact of EL Nino on the monsoon-2009 rainfall in its assessment update issued on 25th June, 2009.
- (b) During 2009, the equatorial Pacific Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomaly scenario (Warming – EL Nino/Cooling – La Nina) till February was showing neutral impact on the monsoon, as there exists a robust inverse concurrent relationship between the monsoon rainfall and EL Nino. However, the seasonal Sea Surface Temperature tendency between March-May 2009 and December 2008-February 2009, which is the indicator of the EL Nino conditions update, suggested that the monsoon season rainfall is likely to be adversely impacted by EL Nino.
- (c) No Madam. Continuous watch is kept on the Sea Surface Temperature variability changes over the tropical Pacific Ocean.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has no role in this regard. As a matter of policy, World Meteorological Organisation do not include country level impacts of EL Nino in their statements.
