

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1292  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, May 05, 2016**

**FORECAST OF MONSOON RAINFALL**

**1292. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that the monsoon rainfall is likely to be munificent 111 per cent give or take 5 per cent of the historical average of 89 cm;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the last decade which has seen several years of drought or near drought conditions for instance in 2002, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2015, and termed as a low epoch may be drawing to a close;**
- (c) whether that according to IMD, India set for an above normal monsoon this year; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 106% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of  $\pm 5\%$  (101-111%). The LPA of the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1951-2000 is 89 cm.**
- (b) Although the last decade has seen several years of drought or near drought conditions, it is difficult to infer that the low rainfall phase is drawing to a close. However, statistical interpretation of inter decadal rainfall variability indicates likely gradual end of the lower rainfall phase that is yet to be realized so far.**
- (c-d) Yes Sir, there is a 94% probability that India is set for a normal to above normal monsoon during 2016.**

**Operational forecasts for the southwest monsoon season (June – September) rainfall are issued in two stages. The first stage forecast is issued in April and the second stage forecast is issued in June. The main highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage forecast are as follows:**

- **Rainfall over the country as a whole for the 2016 southwest monsoon season (June to September) is likely to be above normal (104-110% of LPA).**
- **Quantitatively, monsoon season rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 106% of the long period average with a model error of  $\pm$  5%.**
- **There is 94% probability that the monsoon 2016 rainfall would be normal to excess (96% and above of LPA).**
- **There is only 1% probability that the monsoon 2016 rainfall would be deficient (less than 90% of LPA).**

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