

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2792  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016**

**INCREASE IN FREQUENCY OF SEVERE HEAT WAVE**

**2792. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India Meteorological Department had said that the frequency of severe heat waves had increased sharply in the past fifteen years, if so, the details thereof:**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the average frequency of severe heat waves had doubled from fifty days a year across India until 2000, to about 100 in the 2001-2010 decade; and**
- (c) whether it is also a fact that between 2010 and 2016 too, heat waves showed an upward trend, 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) Yes Sir. It was observed that many areas of the country (north, northwest, central and northeast Peninsula) have experienced 8 or more Heat Waves (HW) days on an average per season. Compared to previous four decades, there was noticeable increase in the Severe Heat Wave (SHW) days over the country during the past fifteen years. The past decade is the warmest decade for the country as well as for the globe.**
- (b) Yes Sir. The decadal variation of the all India SHW days for the five decades during the period 1961-2010 is shown in the table below:**

<b>Decade</b>	<b>All India Severe Heat Wave days/year</b>
<b>1961-70</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>1971-80</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>1981-90</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>1991-00</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>2001-10</b>	<b>98</b>

- (c) Yes Sir, the frequency of heat waves has increased from 2010 to 2016.**

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