

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 812
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 03, 2016**

Issuing of Summer Advisory

812. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that for the first time in its history, the Indian Metreological Department would issue a summer forecast for April, May and June; and**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the IMD officially expunged the word drought from its vocabulary, months after it correctly forecast one of India's severest monsoon deficits last year, 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. Earth System Science Organisation-India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD) will come out, for the first time, with a summer advisory/ summer temperature outlook this year. These forecast assessments will be, however, issued in this year on experimental basis.**

The temperature outlook valid for the period April to June, 2016 will be issued by end of March. In addition, an extended range forecast (up to 15-days) of summer temperatures with a 5-day update will be issued.

- (b) A committee was set up to review the present terms and terminologies being used in operational weather forecasts and to recommend changes for implementation based on interpretation of latest data.**

The modified terminologies have been implemented from 1st January 2016. The decision by the committee to discontinue with the usage of the term 'All India Drought Year' to be replaced by 'All India Deficient Rainfall Year' was mainly owing to the observational fact that the drought situation never manifests across the country as a whole.

Monitoring of the seasonal (monthly / weekly rainfall scenario with reference to respective normal (mean value) is only carried out by ESSO-IMD to regularly assess and identify zones of deficit rainfall leading to drought conditions, the declaration of which remains with the mandate of Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with various state governments. Because of this, the term 'All India Drought Year' is replaced by 'All India Deficient Rainfall Year'.
