



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 203 {NW213E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2024

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Mr M Manyi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether cloud seeding technology has been utilised in the Republic in the past three years; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the primary objectives and/or purposes for its use?

203. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

To the best of the knowledge of the South African Weather Service (SAWS), no cloud seeding technology has been utilised in the Republic of South Africa in the past three years.

With the suspension of the South African cloud seeding programme in 2001 due to funding constraints, South Africa has not pursued any further research in this regard, and it would be advisable to adopt a cautious approach to any cloud seeding technologies until there is sufficient evidence that it can be integrated into a well-designed and sound scientific programme. It must be noted that initiating a cloud seeding programme would require a significant investment in technology and human expertise, with costs estimated to be in the region of R200 million.

The primary purpose of cloud seeding is to augment rainfall for various purposes, which includes an increase in the water supply of an area, mitigating drought, providing rain for agricultural and other purposes that benefit from an increase in rainfall.

Weather modification through cloud seeding can also prevent or mitigate severe weather such as the occurrence of hail. However, in the South African context, cloud seeding was conducted with the objective to increase rainfall.



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 28/2/2024