

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1691
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2007
WEATHER FORECAST
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the weather forecasts being made by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) are proving to be fallacious
- (b) if so, whether the technology being used by Indian Meteorological Department is not up-to-date ;
- (c) if so, whether it is proposed to equip IMD with State-of -the-art technology to get correct weather forecasts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps being taken by the Government to ensure correct forecasting of weather by IMD?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a)to(e) It is not correct to say that the weather forecasts given by IMD are fallacious. Every forecast has a margin of error and the endeavor of the scientists is always to reduce this margin of error through the use of technology. Weather forecasts are made on the basis of meteorological observations and using these observations in a suitable model. The accuracy of the forecast or the margin of error depends on how dense the observational network is and how well suited the model in use is for the area for which the weather forecast is being made. The problem which IMD is facing is that not enough investment has been made so far in the area of instrumentation over the years to make the observation network denser. Apart from this, significant R&D efforts are also lacking in the area of developing suitable model for the weather systems in this part of the world. It is a fact that in our region meso-scale systems often develop suddenly and display erratic behaviors as compared to the extra-tropical regions, which are characterized by frontal type of weather systems displaying systematic development and movement. Hence weather forecasting in our country is different and more difficult. The major step which has been taken to improve the situation is the creation of Ministry of Earth Sciences which has an endeavor to bring ocean and atmospheric observations together and also generate better weather forecast. The Government now has a plan not only to significantly improve the observational network but also technologically upgrade it through installation of equipments such as Doppler Weather Radars, Automatic Rain Gauges, Wind Profilers etc. Also in collaboration with USA under Indo-US AID project, some young scientists of IMD and NCMRWF have been recently trained in USA on different aspects of numerical models. The trained officers are now working in India for validation, testing and fine tuning of the models in Indian conditions. As a result of all the above efforts IMD will be well equipped to provide improved weather forecast services in near future.