

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5071

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2007

STRENGTHENING OF AGROMETEOROLOGY SERVICES

Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission of Agricultural Meteorology of World Meteorological Organization has recommended for strengthening of Agrometeorology services and use of advanced IT to address agricultural hazards and early warning to farmers ;

(b) if so, the capacity of IMD in fulfilling above challenges; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in modernizing and developing the equipment and instruments in IMD for more accurate and area-specific agro-climatic information for dissemination at the district level?

Answer

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

(a) Commission of Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM) of World Meteorological Organization met in Delhi during 28th Oct. to 3rd Nov. 2006 and deliberated on the status of the Agrometeorology services across the world. CAgM made recommendations related to agricultural hazards and early warning to farmers. The Ministry of Earth Sciences had appointed a committee in July 2006, which had worked out the plans for Agromet services for India. These plans were presented in the meeting and the world body appreciated the Agromet plans of India. General guidelines for strengthening of the Agrometeorology services and use of IT were generated.

(b)&(c) The Ministry of Earth Sciences is now integrating the Agromet services by IMD and NCMRWF into one integrated service and the process will be effective from coming Kharif season of 2007. IMD is also taking up modernization plan in next two years and the Agromet services modernization is part of this exercise. The information to the farmers in the first phase of modernization will be supplied through 127 Agromet centres, one located in each of the Agro climatic zones with latest state of art technology & connectivity. This is in addition to the services that are being provided at present to the State Governments.