

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:493

ANSWERED ON:21.10.2008

HOUR WEATHER CHANNEL

Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to launch a 24-hour weather channel in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the above channel is likely to be launched;
- (d) whether all the weather offices of the country is likely to be connected with this channel through a network;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to develop a Weather Monitoring System to cater to the needs of Commonwealth Games-2010; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government has initiated actions to set up a dedicated weather channel under public-private partnership. Accordingly, a suitable broadcaster as a private partner will be selected through a bidding process. It is planned to telecast all weather and climate related information and forecast assessments duly customized to meet the emerging requirements of public, targeted users and agencies covering various sectors.

(c) A 3-phase implementation strategy is being worked out so as to start with 6-hour telecasts of the channel by early next year

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. It is planned to connect entire observational network and forecast offices of IMD under the ongoing modernisation plan of the weather services which will be linked to the proposed weather channel so that real time observations and forecasts are available for use by the Channel.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) A detailed project report is being prepared to upgrade various types of observational systems in and around Delhi and NCR in support of venue specific weather monitoring and forecast system for Commonwealth Games-2010.