

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:884

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTERS FOR WEATHER FORECASTS

Dhurve Jyoti

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether appliances/computers available for making weather forecast and gathering information about oceanic climate and tropical climate are quite outdated;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to procure/develop super computers to gather information about climatic changes in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the quantum of funds allocated for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) No Madam. The Government has always been upgrading the high performance computing systems (HPCS) and associated infrastructure for weather, climate and ocean data assimilation and forecast systems from time to time since 1987. Recently, state of the art HPCS were commissioned at India Meteorological Department (IMD) at Delhi and at 12 regional centres, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

Under the Global and Regional Climate Change (GRCC) program, the HPCS of IITM was further upgraded to meet the computing needs of coupled ocean-atmospheric general circulation model to facilitate long-term climate variability and change studies and to generate representative climate change scenarios for the future.

(b) Despite the above, the existing HPCS capacity of about 125 Tera Flaps is not sufficient to meet on going operational testing and research efforts.

(c) Meeting the HPCS requirements for the Earth System Science Modeling and to carry out intensive frontline research is the priority of the Government for the XII five year plan. To meet this critical requirement, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has developed a strategic plan that outlines a roadmap for the MoES institutions to become leaders in the field of weather, ocean state and climate forecasting in the next 5 years. The plan is to upgrade the total HPCS capacity to 1-3 Peta Flaps level in next 5 years along with appropriate archival and storage.

(d) Requirement of funds for implementing the HPCS capacity augmentation would be sought from the Planning Commission, to implement the strategic plan.