

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:617  
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011  
UTILISATION OF FUNDS FOR FORECASTING  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether huge amount of funds meant for modernisation of weather forecasts, ocean movement and prediction of natural disasters have remained unutilized;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps for the purposeful utilisation of funds allocated for this purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the role of the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting in this project?

**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) Phase-I of the IMDs modernisation programme is currently under implementation. As of now a sum of Rs. 377.35 crores have been utilized out of allocated grants of Rs.920.00 crores during the XI plan.
- (b) Procurement of all observing systems except Wind Profilers, Airport Instruments, upgradation of upper air sounding systems, Lightning Detectors have been completed. Non-procurement of the above observing systems so far was due to unavoidable retendering process. Due to certain unforeseen reasons related to the land acquisition/civil works in some states, the commissioning of the procured observing systems is getting delayed.
- (c) Yes Madam.
- (d) Due additional care is taken in the retendering process of the observing systems so as to avoid such recurrence in future. Despite the above, with the commissioning of the state-of-the-art observing, monitoring/ early warning and data visualization/information processing and communication technologies under the Phase-I of the modernization of IMD, several manual operations have been fully automated. All the manpower that was engaged earlier for such manual operations have been provided due orientation, training and skill development opportunities not only to attain appropriate operating skills of advanced technological platforms but also contribute efficiently to the quality enhancement through customization of sector specific warning and forecasting services.
- (e) Commissioning of the high performance computing (HPC) system at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting has provided opportunity to assimilate satellite radiance data in to the global/regional forecast systems and to enhance the spatial resolution of the global forecast systems from about 50km grid scale to about 22km grid scale. The performance evaluation of the new global forecast system has demonstrated enhanced forecast skill quantitatively.