

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1994
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
RESEARCH IN WEATHER FORECASTING SERVICES
Das Shri Bhakta Charan

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated higher research programmes in weather forecasting in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of students involved in such research programmes at present?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) In order to create a necessary pool of experts in the field of Earth System Sciences and Climate, Centre for Advanced Training in Earth System Sciences and Climate (CAT-ESSC) is established in 2011 within the Earth System Science Organization - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM), Pune with a task of creating large pool of trained and dedicated Climate and Earth System scientists required on regular basis to catch up with the best of the world. Upon successful completion of 18-month duration rigorous training program, the trainees would be inducted in various agencies/institutions of the ESSO of the Ministry at the level of Scientist-'B'/Scientist-'C' as appropriate to respective academic qualifications (B. Tech./M. Tech. or M. Sc.).

Starting from 2011, 20-students per annum are selected through a national advertisement and following duly stipulated screening/written test/ group discussion/interview procedures. Some of the selected trainees will be pursuing Ph. D. as well upon induction and part of the dissertation shall also be organized in celebrated academic/research institutions abroad.

In addition, Government has already fully sponsoring M.Tech. programs in Atmosphere and Oceanic sciences in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, IIT Chennai, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, University of Pune etc. along with providing research scholarships for Ph. D. and grants to establish Distinguished Chair Professors for roping in professionals from global academics/R & D professionals.