

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4649
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
HELPLINE FOR WEATHER UPDATES
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has opened two helplines to give weather updates to farmers recently, in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which these helplines have benefited the farmers, so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Weather information is being communicated to farmers through Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) on toll-free number (1800 180 1551). In addition weather updates are also available through India Meteorological Department's (IMD) toll free number – 1800 180 1717.

(b): The KCC scheme is available through dialing from anywhere in the country. Weather services are made available from 6.00 AM to 10.00 PM except on Sundays and gazetted holidays. Beyond these hours, the calls are attended through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) mode.

Under KCC scheme, IMD is providing district level weather information to farmers across the country through interface of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO), Kisan Sanchar Limited. In addition to weather updates, IMD is also preparing weather based agromet advisories which are disseminated through KCCs and are immensely beneficial for the farmers in taking decisions on their day-to-day operational farm activities.