

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5935
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES TO FARMERS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the Short Message Service (SMS) and the Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) services have been successful for the farmers;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to introduce a dedicated Agromet (Agriculture Meteorological) service for the farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) Under the "Integrated Agromet Advisory Service (IAAS)" programme, district and agro-climatic zone scale advisories have already been disseminated successfully to the farming community through various national and regional level communication mechanisms, viz. print, TV and All India Radio, web media channels, SMS and IVRS in collaboration with different public and private organizations, namely IFFCO Kisan Sanchar (IKSL) Ltd., Reuters Market Light (RML), Nokia Tools, Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, etc. At present, 18 states namely Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have been covered under such services. Presently 3.4 million farmers in the country have been subscribed to SMS services.
- (b) Although, Government had started agro-climatic zone scale (cluster of 3-6 districts) Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) since 1989, expanded district scale operation of IAAS had been implemented from April 2007.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.