

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3117
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
REAL TIME WEATHER FORECAST
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide real time weather information with the help of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the benefit of pilgrims going to Chardham, Amarnath, Vaishno Devi, Mansarovar, Kumbh Mela in the wake of the tragedy in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the places and the time period for which this weather information, if likely, to be made available; and
- (d) the policy formulated/proposed to be formulated by the IMD to provide weather information for the Kumbh fair which is scheduled to be held in 2015?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) (c) Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)-IMD, in coordination with State Governments, is already generating forecasts for major pilgrimages such as Amarnath Yatra, Manasarovar Yatra, Chardham Yatra, Hemkund Sahib, Kumbhmela, etc. and also various mountaineering expeditions launched by Armed Forces for Mount Everest and several other Himalayan mountain ranges for the last few years. However, notwithstanding with the recent heavy rainfall events and floods over Uttarakhand, continuous efforts are on to generate value added forecast products at different spatial scales (State, District, City etc.) and temporal scales (from few hours to 5 days) for all the regions of the country. The tourist city forecasts and their updates in particular are made available through designated state government level functionaries, electronic & print media and for general public on ESSO - IMD's national as well as regional office websites.

(d) Starting from 9th January, 2013, ESSO - IMD had successfully rendered weather forecast service valid for next 7-days on daily basis in connection with Maha Kumbh Mela-2013 held at Allahabad (Sangam) during January 14, 2013 – March 10, 2013. A new android application called "Indian -Weather" for smart phones and TABS, that is freely downloadable through google play available on the home screen of android based smart phones and tabs, is launched from 15th January 2013. With this service, ESSO-IMD's forecasts for major cities of the country for next 4 days along with updated current weather observations were made available to the millions of mobile users across the country in the initial phase.

Government of India has operationalised its location specific nowcasting weather service across the country including the web based inputs. Under this service activity, that covers 117 urban centres currently on experimental basis, nowcast of severe weather (Thunderstorms; heavy rainfall from lows/depressions over the land) in 3-6h range is issued. Origin, development/ movement of severe weather phenomena are regularly monitored through all available observing systems (Automatic Weather Stations-AWSs; Automatic Rain Gauges-ARGs; Doppler Weather Radars- DWRs; Automatic Weather Observing Systems-AWOS; satellite derived wind vectors, temperature, moisture fields etc.) are assimilated to generate predictions (prepared both in text as well as in graphical form) on 3h time range for next 72-hours. Web GIS rendering of the nowcast products is implemented for enhanced spatial representation of the severe weather intensities associated with warnings.

Apart from the above, ESSO - IMD makes use of all available systems to render 7-day special outlook (updated daily) and 3h-interval forecasts for next 3-days (updated daily) valid for Nasik in association with the Kumbh-2015 starting from 14th July, 2015.