

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3210
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
PREDICTION ON OCEAN WEATHER
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the information is being provided with regard to the height of tides and the velocity and direction of winds in the ocean at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the waverider instruments which provide every important information about the oceans are being properly utilised after they were made available;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment about the benefits likely to be accrued to fishermen from the use of waverider; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Madam with daily prediction updates for next 5-days.

(b) Earth System Science Organization-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (ESSO - INCOIS) is rendering operational ocean state forecasting (OSF) service by providing information that includes wave, surface currents, SST etc.,) and the Potential Fishing Zone advisories. The expected height of the tides at 178 locations along the coastline of Indian Ocean rim and at 136 locations along the coastline of India covering all major/minor ports. The dissemination of the generated ocean state forecasting system products (in graphical and digital form at each of the locations with details of high/low tide timings) is carried out through all available mechanisms viz. world wide web, emails, short message service (SMS), electronic display boards and radio etc., so as to reach to a maximum number of user groups- fishermen cooperatives, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, non-governmental organizations working with coastal population and ports/harbour authorities. Generated Ocean surface winds by the ESSO - National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) are utilized for rendering OSF service in India. The wind forecasts (wind speed and direction) are provided at 6h interval to various coastal states and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep islands.

(c) Yes Madam. The wave rider buoy network plays an important role in continuous validation of location specific OSF service products and the same is also used to monitor the sea conditions while issuing 'High Wave Alerts' to fishermen and coastal population in local language. In addition the data is also being used to study the wave patterns along the Indian coast for various research/engineering applications. Currently 10 wave rider buoys are reporting data in real time.

(d) Yes Madam.

(e) The independent survey report titled "Impact of INCOIS scientific forecast services towards improving the lives and livelihood of fishing communities across Tamilnadu and Puducherry" prepared by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation suggests that a significant number of fishermen prevented losses due to timely guidance of the OSF information. Another study carried out by the National Council for Applied Economic Research, New Delhi in 2010 categorically stated that "awareness of the utility of ocean state information by fishermen as well as its use is quite high; more than 90% fishermen were aware of these services in the southern coastal regions and around 64% in the eastern region.