

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:776

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

PREDICTION OF WEATHER

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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has repeatedly failed to predict weather accurately in the country leading to natural disaster in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether in absence of any system to disseminate the alert resulted in large scale destruction and loss of lives in Uttarakhand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to install Doppler radars in cloudburst prone areas; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to adopt latest technology in regard to weather forecast and dissemination of information to tourist and local people?

Answer

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

(a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (d) No Madam. Fully organised protocol exists between the IMD and the various designated disaster management authorities at centre and state levels for dissemination of weather forecast warning alerts and such existing dissemination protocol is always duly complied with by IMD.

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. 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 IMD's national as well as regional office websites.

(e) Based on scientific assessment of the needs for further augmentation of observing system network, comprising Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs), Snow Gauges etc. expansion has been formulated. In addition, augmenting high performance computing facilities, communication, forecast/warning systems, product dissemination systems etc. are part of a continuous process by which state-of-the-art science and technology tools can be made accessible to the scientists engaged in weather research and forecasting for enhancing the service quality.