

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1474

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

WEATHER FORCAST CENTRES

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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of centres set up for forecasting natural calamities such as earthquakes, tsunami, cyclone etc. and providing such information to fishermen, tourists and general public, location and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to expand its infrastructure or open new centres in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the centres likely to be set up, location and State-wise; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)-India Meteorological Department (IMD) is responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of Cyclones. ESSO- Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad is responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of Tsunami due to sea-bed earthquakes and storm surges associated with cyclone landfall. ESSO- National Center for Seismology (NCS) is responsible for monitoring, detection of Earthquakes. Other activities include carrying out research in pure and applied seismology and earthquake precursory phenomena, earthquake processes and modeling.

ESSO-IMD is also responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of other severe weather phenomena like norwesters (severe thunder storms), duststorms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property. ESSO-IMD also operates Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs) at ten locations viz., Agra, Ahmedabad, Asansol, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lucknow, New Delhi and Patna. During the flood season, FMOs provide valuable meteorological support to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for issuing flood warnings in respect of the 43 rivers of India: i) Agra -Lower Yamuna and Betwa ; ii) Ahmedabad -Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, Sabarmati, Banas and Deman Ganga; iii) Asansol -Ajay, Mayurakshi and Kangsabati; iv) Bhubaneswar -Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baiterini, Bruhaba-lang, Subernarekha, Rushkulya and Vansdhara; v) Guwahati - Brahmaputra and Barak; vi) Hyderabad -Godawari and Krishna; vii) Jalpaiguri -Teesta; viii) Lucknow -Ganga, Ramganga, Gomti, Sai, Rapti Ghagra and Samda; ix) New Delhi -Upper Yamuna, Lower Yamuna, Sahibi; x) Patna -Kosi, Mahananda, Baghmati, Kamla, Gandak, Buri Gandak, North Koel, Kanhar, Punpun and Upper Sone.

ESSO-IMD is issuing special weather forecasts for tourist places and they are available on the National and Regional websites of IMD. Special forecasts are also issued for pilgrim tourists for Char Dham Yatra, Amarnathji Yatra etc. The weather information (Maximum, Minimum temperatures, Rainfall and Sky condition, etc.) and forecast for next 7 days for 310 important cities and towns in all the states and union territories of India including 107 tourist locations, is currently being issued under tourism forecasts by the IMD.

(b-c) Selection of suitable expansion of its infrastructure or locations for placing DWRs or any other observing systems with forecasting for specific purposes is always based on scientific assessment of the needs of such observing system networks, comprising Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs), Snow Gauges etc. and accordingly implementation plan is formulated.

(d) Does not arise.