

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5639
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
WEATHER FORECAST CENTRES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that weather forecast centres have been set up in each part of the country after the implementation of weather based insurance scheme in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for setting up of these centres along with their utility;
- (c) whether the said centres do not provide full information regarding the entire weather and farmers have many complaints in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Weather forecast centres were set up by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) only at State Capitals much prior to the introduction of Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) in the country. The purpose of IMD's forecasting centres is to generate value added forecast and weather alerts/warning for use by general people, other sections and to facilitate farmers for taking decision on farm operations accordingly.

Claims under WBCIS, however, are worked out and settled on the basis of weather data received from the notified Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and Automatic Rain- Gauges (ARGs) set up by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and third party data providers mainly for implementation of WBCIS. These AWSs/ARGs are notified by the concerned State Government as Reference Weather Stations for the Reference Unit Area under the scheme.

(c) & (d): Some complaints regarding locations of installation and functioning of AWSs/ARGs were received by this Department. Keeping in view the complaints, a Committee was constituted by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for preparation of guidelines for setting up of AWSs and ARGs. The Committee has submitted its report. Based on the recommendations in the report of the Committee, State Governments and other stakeholders have been advised to notify only those AWSs and ARGs which meet the guidelines framed by the Committee for setting up and operationalising thereof under WBCIS from Kharif 2015 season.