

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4690  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014  
HELPLINE FOR WEATHER UPDATES  
Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has started two helpline numbers in the country to give weather updates to the farmers recently; and  
(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which it would be useful to the farmers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Following helpline number shave been started by the Government to give weather updates to the farmers:

- i. Toll free helpline number 1800 180 1717 of the India Meteorological Department has been operational since July 2000 providing weather updates to the farmers in selected Indian cities/towns over Inter active Voice Response System (IVRS).
- ii. The farmers also call on the Kisan Call Centres (KCCs) over toll free helpline number 1800 180 1551 to get reply to their queries pertaining to agriculture and allied sectors including weather updates. The Farm Tele Advisors (FTAs) deployed in the KCCs (launched by the Ministry of Agriculture since January, 2004) located at 14 places in the country covering all the States and Union Territories, respond to the farmers all 7 days a week from 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M. in their language of the State. The KCCs were restructured from May 2012 with state of the art technology leading to a steep increase in call flow over the past two years. More than 1.49 crore calls have been registered at the KCCs till 31.03.2014 since inception out of which 45 lakh calls were attended successfully during 2013-14 alone.

The weather information and related agro-met advisories, disseminated through KCCs and IMD's IVRS service facilitate the farmers in taking decisions on their day-to- day farm operations. Timely and accurate action on these operations ultimately helps the farmers in minimizing losses due to vagaries of weather. Agro-met advisories & weather forecast are also provided free of cost to farmers through SMS Portal for Farmers.