

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
DUST HAILSTORM
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has failed to make correct predictions about dust/hailstorms, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the IMD: and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) No Madam.

(b) An appropriate system of 24X7 severe weather monitoring and very short time forecasting (3-6 hours lead time) is put in place by the Earth System Science Organization- India Meteorological Department (ESSO- IMD) for predicting the life cycle of Hailstorms & Dust storms. Severe weather advisories were issued by the ESSO-IMD in case of the recent Hailstorms in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

(c-d) Based on scientific assessment of the need, further augmentation of observing system network expansion has always been formulated from time to time. The upgradation of the observing system, high performance computing; 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 towards enhancing the service quality. Continuous efforts are made by the ESSO-IMD to optimize the level of efficiency of the forecasting systems.