

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3590
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 2023**

APPOINTMENT OF METEOROLOGIST

†3590. SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:
SHRI SANJAY JADHAV:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has the details of those services that a meteorologist can provide to the district administration in disaster prone areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to appoint a meteorologist along with adequate supporting infrastructure to each disaster prone district in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to appoint meteorologist/geologist for providing assistance to district administration in hilly areas like excessive landslide prone areas;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a)-(b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) is responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of weather and climate including severe weather events such as cyclones, heavy rainfall, extreme temperature etc. These forecasts are issued at national, regional and state levels from IMD.

For providing time to time early warning services for all types of weather and hydrological disasters, IMD follows a seamless forecasting strategy. The long-range forecasts for the whole season issued are being followed with extended range forecast issued on every Thursday with a validity period of four weeks. To follow up the extended range forecast, IMD issues short to medium range forecast and warnings daily valid up to next five days with an outlook for subsequent two days. The short to medium range forecast is followed by very short range forecast of severe weather up to three hours (nowcast) for all the districts and 1171 locations. These nowcasts are updated every three hours or as per requirement.

Meteorologists extend the following services to district administration through the Regional Meteorological Centres/State Meteorological Centres.

- Location specific nowcast, city forecast, current weather observations and daily rainfall data are being provided on routine basis.
- Coordinates and explains the disaster managers about the expected disastrous weather events, its forecast/warning, damage expected and suggested actions.
- Provide past historical data and its interpretations for preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures for any meteorological disasters. Extend support in capacity building programmes conducted by Disaster Management Authorities.
- Participate in the awareness programmes for various stakeholders including farmers as and when required.

(c)-(d) IMD is meeting the service requirements including support to disaster management with the existing infrastructure and organisational set up. Upgradation of infrastructure and facilities is a continuous process in IMD which includes inducting manpower also as per requirements. About 200 District level Agrometeorological Units (DAMU) have been established in collaboration with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR). In each DAMU there is a Subject Matter Specialist for Agrometeorological Services at district and Block level. Such specialists are also posted in 131 Agrometeorological Field Units (AMFU) representing Agroclimatic zones in collaboration with ICAR and state/central universities.

(e)-(g) No such proposal to appoint meteorologists/geologists specifically for hilly areas had been initiated by the ministry. However, IMD in collaboration of Geological Survey of India (GSI) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) etc. carry out the hazard and vulnerability analysis for the country including hilly region and is providing impact band forecasts related to heavy rainfall induced landslides, flash flood etc.
