

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 833
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

UPGRADATION OF REGIONAL METEOROLOGICAL CENTRE

833. SHRI RAVIKUMAR D.:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to upgrade the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai in the light of the unprecedented rain fall in Tamil Nadu in December 2023 causing significant damages;
- (b) whether the Union Government plans to address the concerns raised by State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding the inability of the Regional Meteorological Centre to Predict red alert situations in advance, leading to challenges in undertaking timely preparatory action by the State and if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the details of timeline and specific measures the Government intends to implement to ensure that the Regional Meteorological Centre is equipped to issue accurate and timely weather forecasts, specially for critical situations like heavy rainfall and potential disasters?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

- (a) Currently, India Meteorological Department (IMD) and its regional meteorological centres including Chennai, are equipped with modern observational and forecasting systems to issue heavy rainfall warnings and the possible impacts caused by those severe weather events.
- (b) The State of Tamil Nadu had experienced two major extreme rainfall events during December, 2023. The first case was observed during 3-5 December, 2023 and the second was on 17 December, 2023. Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai of IMD has issued Orange and Red color-coded warnings in advance during those heavy and extreme rainfall events respectively.
- (c) Modernization and upgradation of observational, forecasting and dissemination systems are a continuous process in IMD. However, temporal and spatial quantification of localized extreme rainfall events that occur during short-time intervals, is still a challenge.
