GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3899
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09, 2017

UPGRADATION OF IMD

3899. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether in spite of rapidly growing indigenous technology, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is lagging behind;
(b) if so, whether the Government is in the process of upgrading infrastructure and technology of IMD to improve forecast with accuracy and speed;
(c) the total financial allocation made by the Government for this purpose; and
(d) whether the Government also proposes to establish more IMD stations in Karnataka, looking at frequent history of drought and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) No Madam. There is no reason to carry such impression about the performance of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that operates dedicated weather and climate monitoring, detection and warning services useful for various sectors of economy. The weather forecasting systems in the country are comparable to most of the developed countries in the world. Efforts are continuously made to enhance the level of efficiency of the forecasting systems and to improve skill of weather forecast. During the past few years, IMD has been continuously improving weather prediction services in terms of accuracy, lead time and associated impact. The accuracy of the weather forecast is more than 80% qualitatively and 65-70% quantitatively for various regions in the country. The forecasts and warnings are issued by IMD at the national, State and district levels. It has a network of State Meteorological Centres for better coordination with State and district level agencies.

For the improvement in the prediction of monsoon rainfall, the National Monsoon Mission was launched in 2012. Under the monsoon mission, two dynamical prediction systems have been implemented for monsoon forecasts.

Noticeable improvements have been achieved in prediction skills of heavy rainfall and tropical cyclones. This is evident with reference to recent tropical cyclones, Phailin, Hudhud and Vardah and the heavy rainfall events in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and recently in Chennai. For the recent cyclone, Vardah, which had caused severe damages in the city of Chennai and neighbourhood, accurate predictions were provided almost 3 days in advance, helping to save thousands of lives. The loss of lives during the last 3 years due to tropical cyclones has reduced to less than hundred as compared to the thousands during the previous decade. For example, the famous 1999 Super Cyclone in Orissa killed more than 10,000 people while the same intense Phailin claimed only less than 50 people in Orissa. This large reduction in casualties is attributed to substantial improvement in monitoring and prediction of tropical cyclones.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Year wise allocation of funds in IMD during 12th Five Year Plan are indicated below:

Financial Year	Funds allocated (Rs. In Crores)
2012-13	206.00
2013-14	200.00
2014-15	190.00
2015-16	174.18
2016-17	241.60
2017-18	188.75

(d) No Madam. However, augmentation of the observing system networks for the upgradation of IMD is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.

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