

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. - 28
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2023

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF HEAT INDEX

28. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of **EARTH SCIENCES** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Meteorological Department has recently launched Heat Index;
- (b) if so, details thereof and aims and objectives of the Heat Index;
- (c) the manner in which the Heat Index help people to take care during heat waves;
- (d) whether any colour codes are given for Heat Index;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether it is also a fact that Heat Index work was completed in Bhubaneshwar and Ahmedabad; and
- (g) if so, by when the work will start for different cities in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Yes Sir, India Meteorological Department (MD) has recently launched Heat Index on experimental basis.
- (b) The experimental Heat Index is launched by IMD is to provide general guidance for the regions within India where, the apparent temperature/feel like temperature (considering the impact of humidity along with the temperature) are on the higher side causing discomfort for the people. At present, heat index is derived using the heat index equation similar to what is used by National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.
- (c) The heat index provides information about the impact of humidity on the high temperatures and thus provides a feel like temperature for human beings which can be used as an indication for human discomfort. It provides guidance towards additional care to be taken by people to reduce discomfort.
- (d) & (e) Yes Sir, colour codes used for Experimental Heat Index follow:
 - Green: - Experimental heat Index less than 35 deg C
 - Yellow: - Experimental heat Index in the range 36-45 deg C
 - Orange: - Experimental heat Index in the range 46-55 deg C
 - Red: - Experimental heat Index greater than 55 deg C
- (f) - (g) No Sir. The Heat Index is implemented on experimental basis only across the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, it is mentioned that, heat index for Bhubaneshwar and Ahmedabad under Heat Action Plan is done under project mode by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with local agencies like Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH).
