

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 190
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2020**

AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FORECAST SERVICES

190. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to strengthen agricultural weather forecast services to utilise advanced information technology to address the risk in agriculture sector and provide early weather information to farmers;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the capacity of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to meet these challenges; and**
- (c) the action taken by Government for modernisation and development of devices and equipments for publicity of accurate and region-specific agricultural weather information at district level?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. Government has utilized advanced information technologies to provide weather forecast services to the farmers on agriculture related activities.**

India Meteorological Department (IMD), under “Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)” scheme, issues district level weather forecast for the next five days covering all the districts in the country. Based on the weather forecast, Agromet Advisories are prepared in collaboration with 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) and communicated to the farming community through multichannel dissemination systems. These advisories are communicated to farmer a) by SMS through mobiles b) Mobile App named as “Meghdhoot” c) IMD Website and Kisan Portal d) TV/radio and news papers.

Based on Extended Range Forecast (ERF), IMD in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR-CRIDA), weekly National Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) bulletins are issued for the planners at Central and State levels, farmers and other organisations for preparedness to cope up with ensuing weather conditions for better crop management.

- (c) IMD is taking continuous efforts to popularize the service among the farming community by organising Farmers' Awareness Programmes (FAPs) in various parts of the country. IMD along with the experts from AMFUs also participate in KisanMelas, Farmers' Day etc. to create awareness about the services so that more farmers get benefitted. Through such programmes, details of more number of farmers are collected for enhancing the outreach. Agromet Advisory Service bulletins are disseminated through SMS under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode and through Kisan Portal to about 42 million farmers on regular basis. These efforts create awareness among the farmers prompting timely action based on weather forecast to save the crops against adverse weather situation and also to reap benefits of congenial weather for increasing the yield.**

Regular inputs and briefings are also provided to DD Kisan channel along with other national TV & radio channels for broadcast of AAS. 660 number of District level Agro-Meteorological Units (DAMUs) are being established throughout the country. The status of ongoing establishment work is given in the table below:

Year	Existing AMFUs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
No. of DAMUs	130	200	200	130
Cumulative No.	130	330	530	660

District level Agro-AWS is planned to be set up for each district to provide Block level advisories. Experimental block level Agromet advisories are issued twice a week by AMFUs/DAMUs for 1600 blocks as on date. These are disseminated through state extension services and social media to farmers.
