

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *42
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015
(listed at 12th Position)**

***42. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Meteorological Department has identified locations in the country under its modernization phase-II for installation of Doppler radars;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria for selecting the location for installation of Doppler radar; and**
- (c) the number of locations identified in Himachal Pradesh, and by when work of installation of Doppler radars in Himachal Pradesh would be completed?**

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

(a)- (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY TO (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION No. *42 REGARDING “Installation of Doppler radars in Himachal Pradesh ” ASKED BY SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR FOR ANSWER ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

(a-b) Earth System Science Organization-India Meteorological Department (ESSO- IMD) has so far not formulated the Modernization Phase-II Programme. Nonetheless, augmentation of Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network has always been on the priority of the Government so as to continuously enhance the 24X7 severe weather surveillance capability to issue not only nowcast (very short range – up to 6h severe weather warnings) and to assimilate such data in regional and local scale forecast models to predict such adverse weather in short range (up to 48h in advance). Accordingly, based on the emerging priorities, an “Integrated Himalayan Meteorology Programme for Western & Central Himalayas” is formulated for improving weather forecasting services in a targeted manner with augmentation of various observing systems over the hill states of NW India.

Selection of suitable locations for placing DWRs or any other observing systems is always based on scientific assessment of the needs of such observing system networks, comprising Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs), Snow Gauges etc. and accordingly implementation plan is formulated.

(c) Three DWRs at Shimla, Bhunter and Dalhousie are proposed to be installed in Himachal Pradesh under the Integrated Himalayan Meteorology covering Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand with an allocation of Rs 117crores during the current Five Year Plan.