

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1452
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016**

SMS ALERT TO FARMERS ABOUT WEATHER CONDITIONS

1452. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farmers get SMS alert about weather conditions, if so, the details of the same;**
- (b) whether it is a fact that this facility is available only to farmers who are in and around the meteorological stations; and**
- (c) if so, what about the farmers who are in remote areas of the country?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir.**

The Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) of Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)-India Meteorological Department (IMD) is rendered on twice weekly basis in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), IITs etc. District level weather forecast for next 5-days in respect of:

- Rainfall**
- maximum temperature, minimum temperature**
- wind speed, wind direction**
- relative humidity and clouds**
- weekly cumulative rainfall forecast**
- Crop specific advisories**

are provided to farmers. The GKMS of ESSO-IMD has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers through different print/visual/Radio/ IT based media including short message service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) facilitating for appropriate field level actions. Weather forecast based agrometeorological advisories are disseminated through Kisan portal launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and also under public private partner. At present, the GKMS products are disseminated through SMS and IVRS to 11.5 million farmers in the country.

(b) No Sir.

The SMS services are meant for any farmer across the country who registers in Kisan Portal or through the designated SMS service providers under public private partnership (PPP) mode.

ESSO-IMD also launched an SMS-based alert system for general public for dissemination of weather and disaster-related (cyclone, severe weather storms, heavy rains) information. Under this round-the-clock web-based operational system, the ESSO-IMD will send SMS to individuals who would register themselves at the weather forecaster's official website (www.imd.gov.in) for this purpose. Besides giving information about natural calamities, the system will also suggest what action needs to be taken.

ESSO-IMD had a mobile application for Android based smart phone/tablets. The mobile app by the name "Indian Weather" is downloadable from Google play store, free of cost. Presently, the app provides current weather and 4 days weather forecast across the country for 310 cities. The mobile app. shall also be hosted for free download from the government mobile appstore (<https://apps.mgov.gov.in/indwx.isp>).

(c) Does not arise.
