

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 16
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2017
INSTALLATION OF AWS**

16. SMT. AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to install more Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) in the country and if so, the details and the locations thereof;**
- (b) whether the personnel at these stations are well trained to handle data monitoring and accurate reporting and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether periodic inspections are made to ensure quality control, calibration and utilization of AWS data for forecasting and developing weather prediction models; and**
- (d) 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 Sir. Augmentation of the observing system networks including Automatic Weather Station (AWS) network is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.**
- (b) Yes, Sir. Field maintenance staff are trained to address the functional issues periodically as AWSs are operated without placing any manpower at their locations.**

Various measures are being taken up to avoid and to rectify malfunctioning of AWSs. These are;

- Zonal Instrument Maintenance Centres (ZIMC) and Field Maintenance Units (FMU) are established for routine inspection as well as maintenance of all unmanned field observing systems.**
 - Awarding of rate contract for the supply of spares and consumables for rectifying the disfunctionality of the systems.**
 - Periodic preventive calibration of the field sensors and the systems.**
 - Periodic maintenance of the AWS sites.**
- (c-d) Yes Sir. Quality control is rigorously carried out at ground station after receiving the hourly weather data prior to its utilization in the assimilation and forecast system in real time.**
