

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 22
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2017
NON-FUNCTIONAL INSTRUMENTS OF IMD**

22. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at least a quarter of the India Meteorological Department's recently installed rain gauges and Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), meant to supply hourly weather data from across the country, are not working to their capacity;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that several instruments remain non-functional because of lack of qualified personnel to repair them;**
- (c) whether many AWSs are located on hills and in other hard to reach regions and could malfunction unless regularly maintained; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Yes Sir.**
- (b) No Sir. At times the non-functionality continues for longer time due to short supply/delayed supply of spares and consumables and coordination deficiencies due to unforeseen developments including theft and vandalism in remote locations across the country.**
- (c-d) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has installed 706 AWS in the country so far covering stations in plains, hilly states and remote North-East India.**

Field maintenance staff is 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 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 calibration of the field sensors and the systems.**
- Periodic preventive maintenance of the AWS sites**

Quality control is rigorously carried out at ground reception station after receiving the hourly weather data prior to its utilization in the assimilation and forecast system in real time.
