

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2556
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2019**

DEDICATED WEATHER CHANNEL

2556. SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) **whether Government proposes to provide weather related information and start a dedicated T.V. Channel to broadcast news-items for helping the farmers and fishermen living in coastal areas, if not, the reasons therefor, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) **whether the India Meteorological Department also proposes to start a dedicated channel on Radio to disseminate the weather forecasts and other meteorological news items, if so, details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**

(Dr. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) **No Sir. Government doesn't have a proposal to start a dedicated T.V. Channel to broadcast the weather related information. However, the weather information to the farmers and fishermen are being disseminated through the following ways:**

There exists a dedicated link between India Meteorological Department (IMD) Headquarters and Doordarshan for dissemination of weather information and forecasts in bulletins as well as in graphics form. The latest weather information, forecast and warnings for the parameters relevant to agriculture are briefed to DD Kisan on a routine basis as shown in the table below:

S.N	Content	Level	Language	Frequency
1	Realized and weather forecast bulletin	Meteorological subdivision level	English / Hindi	Daily

2	Inputs to DD Kisan on Detailed weather forecast and Agro-meteorological Advisories.	National level	Hindi	Biweekly Tuesday and Friday
3	Bites to DD Kisan on Detailed weather forecast and Agro-meteorological Advisories	State level for Maharashtra	Marathi	Biweekly Tuesday and Friday

- **Agro-meteorological Field Units (AMFUs) located in each Agroclimatic Zone also provide their inputs to regional Doordarshan channels regarding weather forecast and Agro-meteorological advisories.**
- **As and when required IMD officers are interviewed by news channel reporters regarding weather forecast and suggested advisory to farmers.**
- **In addition to the Doordarshan Channel, other private channels also get information from IMD as and when required.**
- **The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) provides Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories to about 6.75 lakh fishermen on a daily basis to help them to easily locate the areas of abundant fish in the ocean.**

As the weather information is being efficiently disseminated by the Government to the farmers and fishermen, launching a dedicated weather channel hasnot been considered in near future.

- (b) No Sir. IMD is not proposing to start a dedicated channel on Radio to disseminate the weather forecasts and other meteorological news items, as already the weather information is being disseminated through the All India Radio (AIR) stations to the farmers and public.**

In addition, the weather forecast and warnings are disseminated through e-mail and fax and are posted in the IMD website also, which are updated four times in a day.

Specific advisories related to agriculture are provided through (a) print/visual/radio/IT based media including Short Message Service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to facilitate appropriate field action; (b) weather forecast based agro-meteorological advisories are disseminated through Kisan Portal launched by the Ministry of Agriculture; and (c) the latest weather information, forecast and warnings for the parameters relevant to agriculture are briefed to DD Kisan as routine basis as and when they approach for the same.

The weather information is also disseminated daily through the social media like facebook and twitter.
