

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 35
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017**

WEATHER FORECASTING BY IMD

35. SMT. WANSUK SYIEM:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether presently weather forecast is being provided by the IMD at district level through daily updates;**
- (b) whether, to address the issues of variations in weather pattern within a district, Government has launched localised forecasting at block level on experimental basis; and**
- (c) whether the IMD had launched special service titled "Nowcast" providing farmers with alerts through SMS on thunderstorm, squall, hailstorm, cyclone, etc.?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes Sir. India Meteorological Department (IMD) is providing weather forecast and warnings at district level.**
- (b) Yes Sir. Research efforts are initiated to explore possibility of generating sub district (block level) scale agro-meteorological forecast with acceptable level of skill in a pilot mode.**
- (c) Yes Sir. IMD has introduced a system of operational nowcasting of severe weather for the entire country in the recent past. These nowcasts for severe weather such as thunderstorms, hail or squally winds, heavy rainfall etc. are updated on the IMD website at three hourly intervals by various meteorological centres for 227 cities/towns covered under Doppler Weather Radar (DWR). These warnings are also linked to the mKisan portal of the Government of India which has the facility to send SMS to registered farmers. In case, severe weather is predicted for any station, an automatic SMS is generated by the mKisan SMS Portal and sent to the farmers in their respective native language. Any farmer can register freely to access the warning through SMS service of mKisan portal.**
