

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. \*85  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015  
(PLACED AT 10<sup>TH</sup> POSITION)**

**WEATHER ALERT SYSTEM BASED ON SMS**

**\*85. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether weather alert system based on SMS has been introduced by the India Meteorological Department in the recent past; if so, the details and salient features of the said system;**
- (b) the details of the guidelines under which general public can avail such facilities;**
- (c) whether any arrangements have been made for smooth functioning of said system in the case of any calamity, if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government bring awareness of said alert system among the citizens of the country; and**
- (d) the manner in which citizens in sensitive areas will be benefited from the said system?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) - (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

**STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA IN REPLY (a) to (d)  
TO STARRED QUESTION NO. \*85 REGARDING “WEATHER ALERT SYSTEM  
BASED ON SMS” TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015**

**(a-c) Yes Sir. The Earth System Science Organization–India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD) had 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](http://www.imd.gov.in)) for this purpose. Besides giving information about natural calamities, the system will also suggest what action needs to be taken.**

**In addition for countries in the North Indian Ocean, a free registration procedure has been started in the ESSO-IMD at Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC), cyclone Website ([www.rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in](http://www.rsmcnewdelhi.imd.gov.in)).**

**ESSO-IMD has started sending SMS based Cyclone/Tsunami/ Earthquakes parameters based alerts to disaster managers of Government of India like National Disaster Management and their Control Room of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Central Water Commission (CWC) and DG Shipping etc. along with the disaster managers of the states in 2012. ESSO-IMD has also launched a mobile application for Android based smart phone/tablets on Good Governance Day Observed on 25th December 2013. 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>).**

**The Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) of the ESSO-IMD has been successful in providing the crop specific advisories to the farmers at the district level twice weekly through different print/visual/Radio/ IT based wider dissemination media including short message service (SMS) and Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) directly to farming community.**

**Agro-meteorological advisories are also being disseminated in vernacular languages through “Kisan SMS”, through portal (<http://farmer.gov.in/>) launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India since July 2013. At present 10.27million farmers (as per the details presented at Annexure-I) have directly subscribed and are receiving advisories.**

**It has been extended to fishermen along the coast through the SMS facility of ESSO-Indian National centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, since October 2013. It was further extended to be disseminated through ‘Kisan Portal’ since 2014.**

**(d) Major benefits likely to be accrued out of these efforts include**

- i) To increase the awareness among disaster managers about cyclones/tsunami/earthquake alerts, measures are taken by ESSO-IMD from time to time are also presented as a part of pre-cyclone exercise conducted twice a year during April and September by the MHA where in all stakeholders/disaster managers involved with the responsibility of organizing appropriate emergency response at central, state and district levels are invited.**
- ii) Besides the fisherman community that are already getting benefited by not cruising to the affected open sea zones, other community level emergency response planning can become possible involving media, civil defence organizations, NGOs and general public for avoiding panic and to organize the effective response and relief as well for the life safety.**

**Farmer Awareness Programmes are organized in different parts to make the farmers aware of such services. Besides, wider publicity and outreach activities about the service are carried out during Kisan Melas, Field Day, Krishi Darshan, India International Trade Fair etc. Contact details of the farmers are collected during such programmes and their names are registered for the free SMS service by our field units.**

**Weather forecast and agro-meteorological advisories issued for the areas sensitive to different kinds of weather hazards help the farmers in taking appropriate decisions on weather sensitive farm operations like selection of crop varieties, sowing time, application of fertilizers, pesticides, advancing harvest etc. Some of the accrued benefits at large owing to ESSO-IMD services include:**

- i) Due to prior intimation provided during cyclone HUDHUD in the second week of October 2014, around 1.9 million farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, East Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh could take possible preventive measures to safeguard the crops like rice, sugarcane, banana etc. from heavy rainfall and high winds.**
- ii) Similar alerts and warnings issued in association with cyclone NILOFAR sent to 2.1lakh farmers in Gujarat State during end of October 2014 had benefitted farmers to prevent the crop damage like rice, cotton and groundnut from heavy rainfall.**
- iii) Alerts and warning along with agro-meteorological advisories issued to 51.5lakh farmers in the second week of April 2015 about the occurrence of thunder/squall along with possible hailstorm in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana had benefitted large number of farmers in taking appropriate safeguards to minimize the crops damage.**

## Annexure I

## Status of Dissemination of Agro-meteorological Advisories through SMS as on April 2015

State	IFFCO	NOKIA	Reuter	Handygo	Nabard	Mahindra & Mahindra	State Total
<b>Uttar Pradesh + Uttarakhand</b>	<b>326746</b>	<b>129100</b>	<b>18825</b>				<b>474671</b>
<b>Odisha</b>	<b>211842</b>	<b>3531</b>	<b>1688</b>				<b>217061</b>
<b>Goa</b>			<b>149</b>				<b>149</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh + Chattisgarh</b>	<b>28012</b>	<b>42720</b>	<b>32887</b>				<b>103619</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>18227</b>	<b>94652</b>	<b>579</b>				<b>113458</b>
<b>Bihar + Jharkhand</b>	<b>219742</b>	<b>37800</b>	<b>2009</b>				<b>259551</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>26825</b>	<b>62610</b>	<b>57498</b>				<b>146933</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>48813</b>	<b>57509</b>	<b>12786</b>				<b>119108</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>29799</b>	<b>97908</b>	<b>28546</b>	<b>12512</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>92500</b>	<b>311265</b>
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>7996</b>	<b>52136</b>	<b>1752</b>	<b>1604</b>			<b>63488</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>20205</b>	<b>20956</b>	<b>12719</b>				<b>53880</b>
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>52964</b>	<b>12430</b>	<b>16991</b>				<b>82385</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>72602</b>	<b>69565</b>	<b>6542</b>				<b>148709</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>50527</b>	<b>111300</b>	<b>14481</b>				<b>176308</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>4225</b>	<b>61451</b>					<b>65676</b>
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>4553</b>	<b>5131</b>	<b>1721</b>				<b>11405</b>
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>		<b>11311</b>	<b>404</b>				<b>11715</b>
<b>Assam</b>		<b>31739</b>					<b>31739</b>
<b>Meghalaya</b>			<b>135</b>				<b>135</b>
<b>Delhi</b>			<b>314</b>				<b>314</b>
<b>Total</b>							<b>2391569</b>
<b>SMS sent by AMFUs through NIC, way 2 SMS etc.</b>							<b>130198</b>
<b>Reliance foundation (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry)</b>							<b>17000</b>
<b>SMS sent through Kisan Portal</b>							<b>7736846</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>							<b>10275613</b>