

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 37
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, AUGUST 05, 2013

WEATHER FORECASTING BY IMD

37. SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been asked to draw up a time-bound plan to make weather monitoring and forecasting efficient;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a criticism that accurate prediction by IMD would have helped in preventing such large scale casualties in Uttarakhand; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for the failure?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) - (b) Earth System Science Organization-(ESSO-IMD) has formulated plan of Himalayan Meteorology Program to augment observing systems by deploying Doppler Weather Radars, rain radars, Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) etc. This plan has been shared with NDMA and others. The above observations will lead to improved understanding of Himalayan weather in general and severe weather in particular. The assimilation of the above observational data will facilitate improvement in now-casting and forecasting.
- (c) No Sir. ESSO - IMD, in coordination with State Governments, is already generating forecasts for major pilgrimages such as Amarnath Yatra, Manasarovar Yatra, Chardham Yatra, Kumbhmela, etc. and also various mountaineering expeditions launched by Armed Forces for Mount Everest and several other Himalayan mountain ranges. However, notwithstanding with the recent heavy rainfall events and floods over Uttarakhand, continuous efforts are on to generate value added forecast products at different spatial scales (State, District, City etc.) and temporal scales (from few hours to 5 days) for all the regions of the country. The tourist city forecasts and their updates in particular are made available through designated state government level functionaries, electronic & print media and for general public on IMD's national as well as regional office websites.
- (d) Does not arise.
