

Regarding need for installation of adequate number of community centric decentralized Automatic Weather Forecasting Stations in hilly regions of the country including Himachal Pradesh-Laid

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): In recent weeks, Himachal Pradesh has seen 14 cloudbursts and 3 flash floods, resulting in 78 tragic deaths, widespread landslides and extensive infrastructure damage. Simultaneously, Uttarakhand's Dharali flash flood triggered by cloudburst on August 5th claimed lives and destroyed homes, roads, and livelihoods. These events highlight a worrying rise in extreme weather events. The current IMD forecasting model operates on a 6×6 km grid, which is a significant improvement from previous 12x12km, but still inadequate for the microclimatic variations of our hill regions. In the Himalayas, one ridge can be dry while the next valley faces torrential rain. Without finer-scale forecasts, such as 1 km resolution or station-level systems, early warning and evacuation can remain limited. As Prime Minister emphasised at the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure that "resilience must be embedded in our systems, and modern technology, when integrated with local insight, can save lives". On these lines, We must decentralise forecasting, empower district level institutions, install more Automatic Weather Stations, and issue block level and Village level alerts. This Community level dissemination can ensure early warning and timely evacuation. These critical steps can help to protect lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure in fragile Himalayan belt.