

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2670

ANSWERED ON:31.08.2007

MODERNIZATION OF METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Gawali Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme for modernization of meteorological department;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether the meteorological department is contemplating to launch a meteorological television channel;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether warning centres are being started this year to deal with the problems relating to natural calamities; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir, a scheme for modernization of the India Meteorological Department(IMD) has been formulated in order to provide precise and timely weather services to various user agencies based on state of the art observational and communication infrastructure.

(b) The components of modernization scheme include :

- i) Strengthening of the existing observational network and expanding the network.
- ii) Improving the forecasting methodology by integrating the Numerical Weather Prediction(NWP) model outputs with synoptic reasoning.
- iii) Quick dissemination of weather information and warnings to the users in real time.

IMD has initiated action to implement the above modernization scheme in phased manner. In the first phase (2007-2009), part procurement of equipments and provision of requisite commissioning facilities are being under taken. In addition, complete integration and networking of various equipments (old and new) along with the observational data reception on real time to centralized data information system to various forecast offices.

Along with this, a comprehensive dissemination mechanism of warnings and alerts is planned to various end users. Remaining segment of modernization of IMD will be implemented in the subsequent period of the XI five year plan.

iv) Officers of IMD are trained to acquire expertise in advanced Numerical Weather Prediction techniques under Indo-USAID project. Improved systems of forecasting are being implemented to get longer lead time and increased accuracy – Nowcasting (3-6hrs), Short range forecasting(1-3 days), Medium range forecast(3-10 days) and long range forecasting(monthly and seasonal).

High performance computer system is under procurement for enabling switch over to a highly automated and modern weather forecasting involving global/regional/meso-scale numerical models.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The government proposes to set up a dedicated weather channel under Pubic- Private-Partnership.

(e) –(f) Yes Sir. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System is getting ready for real time operations at the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.

The warning dissemination specific to natural calamities is carried out through existing area cyclone warning centres, regional meteorological centres, flood meteorological offices. Network of digital cyclone warning dissemination systems(DCWS) is operated in areas vulnerable to cyclones.