

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6361
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Agro-Meteorology Services
Antony Shri Anto ;Shetty Shri Gopal Chinayya

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is implementing any scheme called the Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services (AMAS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its objectives and salient features;
- (c) whether the Government has any record regarding the districts in Kerala covered under AMAS and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to enhance the coverage of AMAS;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) the capacity of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to meet the agricultural meteorology information; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government for modernization and development of equipments in IMD for broadcasting actual and area specific agricultural meteorology information at the district level ?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Madam. India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is implementing Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the scheme "Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS)" in the Country.

(b) GKMS of IMD is rendered twice a week to farmers in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), IITs etc. District level weather forecast for next 5-days in respect of:

- Rainfall
- maximum temperature, minimum temperature
- wind speed, wind direction
- relative humidity and clouds
- weekly cumulative rainfall forecast
- Crop specific advisories

are provided to farmers. GKMS of IMD has been successful in providing crop specific advisories to farmers through different print/visual/Radio/ IT based media including short message service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response Service (IVRS) facilitating for appropriate field level actions. Weather forecast based agrometeorological advisories are disseminated through Kisan portal launched by Ministry of Agriculture and also under public private partner.

(c) Yes Madam. All the districts of Kerala have been covered under the scheme. Details of the districts in Kerala covered under the scheme is given in Annexure-I

(d-e) Yes Madam. Presently IMD is providing Agromet services to farming community at District level. Research efforts are initiated by IMD to explore possibility of generating sub district scale Agrometeorological forecast with acceptable level of verification skill in a pilot mode.

(f) There is mechanism for dissemination of Agromet Advisories through multi-mode communication channels including mass and electronic media and also through SMS and IVR (Interactive Voice Response Technology) through Kisan Portal launched by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India as well as private companies under PPP mode. At present 21.16 million farmers are receiving the information through SMS on regular basis.

(g) Under modernization plan, IMD has installed 550 AWS and 127 Agro-AWS throughout the country, so that the observational network would be strengthened. These AWS data would be useful in generating high resolution weather forecast .At present the scheme is implemented at district level covering 636 districts in the country.