

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2286
ANSWERED ON 20/03/2025

DISTRICT AGRO-METEOROLOGICAL UNITS

2286. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has closed almost 199 District Agro-Meteorological Units (DAMUs), including those shut in March 2024, and has privatized agromet services due to rising costs;
- (b) the rationale for replacing localized human involvement with automated electronic communication, despite the demonstrated economic and agricultural benefits of DAMUs;
- (c) the measures proposed to mitigate the potential adverse effects of DAMU closures on food security, agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods; and
- (d) whether there is a possibility of retaining localized agromet services to support farmers and enhance the agricultural economy?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a)-(d) As per the instructions of the Ministry of Finance, the services of District Agromet Units (DAMUs) under Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) have been discontinued since 1st March 2024.

However, Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) has not been privatized. Instead, the AAS under the GKMS are continued through 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) located at State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), etc. Each AMFU is equipped with two manpower (One Technical Officer and One Agromet Observer) for carrying out the GKMS activities such as preparation and issuance of AAS bulletins (in English and Regional language), recording of weather observations from conventional agro-met observatory, preparation, and dissemination of Impact based forecast (IBFs) for agriculture during severe weather warnings, utilizing the available platforms for disseminating the services to the farming community to cover all farmer households.

Apart from the above, with the advancement of information technology, farmers access weather information, including alerts and related agromet advisories specific to their districts, through the mobile App viz., 'Meghdoot' launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. These weather details are also accessible to farmers through IMD's 'Mausam' App. To extend real-time weather updates to farmers for

making appropriate decisions on farm operations. The AMFUs also use social media platforms like 'WhatsApp', 'Facebook', 'YouTube,' etc., to disseminate weather forecasts, severe weather warnings, and agro-met advisories. Additionally, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has integrated its services with information technology (IT) platforms of 16 State Governments, allowing farmers to access information in English and regional languages.

The Ministry recently launched the Gram Panchayat Level Weather Forecasting (GPLWF) initiative. The India Meteorological Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), launched the GPLWF for nearly all the Gram Panchayats in India on 24th October 2024. These forecasts are accessible on digital platforms such as e-Gramswaraj (<https://egramswaraj.gov.in/>), the Meri panchayat app, e-Manchitra of MoPR, and Mausamgram of IMD (<https://mausamgram.imd.gov.in/>).
