

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5203
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2017**

LIGHTNING STRIKES

5203. SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deaths due to lightning are increasing in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has any mechanism to predict lightning strikes and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the reasons for not being able to predict with accuracy area specific thunderstorms and lightning and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (d) the details of group of scientists working in this field and the present status of their research and study; and**
- (e) the details of funds allocated for the research in the area of lightning and prediction techniques and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

- (a) Madam, there is no detailed study which suggests that deaths due to lightning are increasing in the country.**
- (b) Globally, there is no mechanism to predict lightning strikes. However, ground based lightning discharge detection and location/occurrence capturing networking are deployed in some parts of India.**
- (c) Thunderstorms are short lived. Life cycle of thunderstorms (from genesis to decay) is only couple of hours. Further, they happen as a highly local phenomenon. Prediction models have difficulty in predicting these short lived thunderstorms.**
- (d) Thunderstorm Dynamics group at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune is working on characteristics of lightning over India. At present IITM, Pune has Lightning Location Network (LLN) over Maharashtra to study the characteristics of lightning associated with thunderstorms.**
- (e) An expenditure of Rs. 10 crores has been incurred for the establishment of LLN in 2013-14.**
