**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**
**LOK SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3013**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018**

## MODERNIZATION OF IMD

**3013. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:**

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

**(a) the status of modernization programme of India Meteorological Department (IMD);**
**(b) whether the targets of automation of Weather Observation System in the country have been achieved; and**
**(c) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**
**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**
**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

**(a) On 2007, Union Cabinet approved the implementation of modernization for Indian Meteorological Department to improve the weather forecasting services in India. Under this programme observational system of IMD has been strengthened by istalling Radars, Automatic Weather Stations and rain gauges.**

**Further densification of the observation network is underway through implementation of (1) Atmospheric Observations Network, (2) Upgradation of Forecast System, (3) Weather & Climate Services, and (4) Commissioning of Polarimetric Doppler Weather Radars during 2017-20 and beyond.**

**(b)-(c) Augmentation of observational systems is a continuing process. Automation of Weather Observation Systems is being undertaken through implementation of various schemes in IMD. Following milestones have been achieved in this direction :**

- **Augmentation of Doppler Weather Radar Network from 14 in 2012 to 24.**
- **The GPS based Radiosonde systems were introduced at 10 locations in 2009. The network further expanded from 10 in 2012 to 39 stations and became 43 stations in 2015.**
- **Surface observational network was augmented by increasing the number of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) from 550 to 675 (including 127 Agro AWS) and by introducing 1330 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) into the network.**
- **High Wind Speed Recorder network expanded to 20 stations for better monitoring & prediction of tropical cyclones.**

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