

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 426
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JUNE, 2019

WEATHER MONITORING

426. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:
SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether weather monitoring is being used to help the farmers in making better agricultural decisions, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to ascertain the risk factor on the field of agriculture by using advanced Information Technology to provide information to the farmers in the beginning of seasons, if so, the details of the capacities of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to meet these challenges;
- (c) whether the Government has any schemes in place to ensure that the farmers living in the rural areas have access to this information and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government towards modernisation and development of the equipment for dissemination of the accurate and region specific information on agriculture related weather at the district level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR**)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Weather monitoring system is used to help the farmers in making better agricultural decisions like carrying out timely sowing of crops according to weather forecast.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW) is providing agriculture related information including 'Weather conditions' to the farmers through Kisan Call Centre operating from 21 locations in 22 local languages. In addition, DAC&FW is also providing weather related information through its regular mass media and outreach programmes being telecast/broadcast through Doordarshan, DD Kisan and All India Radio. The crops and weather based advisories are also disseminated through m-kisan portal to registered farmers.

To ascertain the risk factor, Agriculture Contingency Plans for 648 districts have been updated and uploaded on the Department's Portal which serve as a ready reckoner for Line Departments and farming community on the prevailing farming systems and technological interventions to manage various weather aberrations such as droughts, floods, cyclones, hailstorms, heat and cold waves. These cover different sectors of agriculture including crops, horticulture, livestock, poultry and fisheries.

Besides, India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) implements an operational Agromet Advisory Service (AAS) scheme, viz., Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS) for the benefit of farming community in the country. Under GKMS scheme, district level weather forecast including rainfall for the next five days for all the districts is generated. Based on the weather forecast, Agromet Advisories are prepared in collaboration with 130 Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) and communicated to the farming community. AAS rendered by IMD is a step to weather-based crop and livestock management strategies and operations dedicated to enhancing crop production besides reducing crop damage and loss due to extreme weather events.

(d): By making use of modern technology for the Agromet Advisories are being disseminated through SMS and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) using Kisan Portal launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and also private companies like IKSL, Reliance Foundation and Mahindra Samriddhi under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. In addition to the above means of communication, the AMFUs also use social media like WhatsApp and other mobile Apps developed for the purpose.

Further, Kisan Suvidha mobile application has been developed by the Department to facilitate dissemination of information to farmers on the critical parameters viz., weather; market prices; plant protection; input Dealers (Seed, Pesticide, Fertilizer) farm machinery; soil health card; cold storages & godowns, veterinary centres and diagnostic labs. This app is available in 9 languages viz., English, Hindi, Tamil, Gujarati, Oriya, Punjabi, Marathi, Bengla and Telugu.
