

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1906
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

DATA COLLECTION CAPACITY OF IMD

1906. SHRI GIRISH BHALCHADRA BAPAT :

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an unexpected increase in natural disasters like cyclones and floods during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to take steps to improve the data collection capacity of IMD helping it to predict natural events with more accuracy; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) Yes Sir. Based on the statistics during 1891-2017, on an average 5 cyclones develop over North Indian Ocean in a year with 4 developing over Bay of Bengal and 1 over Arabian Sea. However, in the recent past, an increase in frequency has been observed in formation of cyclones in the North Indian Ocean. Also studies show an increase in frequency of severe cyclones over Arabian Sea in recent years.

The details of Cyclones formed over North Indian Ocean during 2016 to 2020 follow:

YEAR	Frequency of Cyclones over		Total number of cyclones	Intensity with that of Severe Cyclones or more
	Arabian Sea	Bay of Bengal		
2016	0	4	4	1
2017	1	2	3	2
2018	3	4	7	6
2019	5	3	8	6
2020	2	3	5	5

The occurrence of 5 cyclones over Arabian Sea in 2019 against the normal of 1 per year equals the previous record of 1902 for the highest annual cyclone frequency over Arabian Sea. Also 2019 witnessed development of more intense cyclones over Arabian Sea.

The country has witnessed intense to very intense rainfall activity leading to flood scenario in the recent past. The number of stations reported Very Heavy and Extremely Heavy rainfall in the last five years, from 2016 to 2020, follow:

YEAR	Number of stations Reported during SW Monsoon season (June to September)	
	V. Heavy Rainfall (64.5 mm to 114.5 mm)	Extremely Heavy Rainfall (2.4.5 mm or more)
2016	1864	226
2017	1824	261
2018	2181	321
2019	3056	554
2020	1912	341

(b) & (c) Yes, IMD is planning to expand Data collection Capacity by Installing Automatic Weather Stations as given below:

- 400 Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) will be installed shortly across India during 2021-22.
- 200 Agro-AWSs are in installation stage and will be commissioned during 2021-22.
