

maximum temperature, minimum temperature, total cloud cover, relative humidity (maximum and minimum), wind speed and wind direction and cumulative weekly rainfall along with weather based crop advisories at district level are provided through this system.

(c) Yes Sir. IMD - ESSO as on today is providing this service free of cost to the farmers with all the crop specific inputs through designated service providers (*viz.* government and private agencies).

(d) In the pilot phase, to understand the credibility and rendering feasibility of the service through SMS and IVRS, few service providers like IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited, Handygo, Nokia Life Tools, Reuter, State Dept. of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra etc. have been identified for routing the advisories to the registered 3-4 million farmers currently.

(e) No Sir. Such an exercise will have to wait until remaining States are covered in a gradual manner.

(f) Does not arise.

Vacancies in Ministry

372. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of posts of Officers, Executives and the Employees are lying vacant in the Ministry; and

(b) what is the time-frame for filling up of those posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Occurrence of vacancies due to retirement, promotion, death etc. in the various grades of Central Government offices is a continuous process. Appointing authorities take necessary action to fill up such vacancies as per the provisions of the relevant recruitment rules/ service rules, and also, keeping in view other instructions/guidelines issued by Government of India from time-to-time.

FM Radio broadcasts in Rajasthan

†373. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in Rajasthan where FM radio broadcasts are on air, at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.