

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The skill of weather forecasting systems in the country are comparable to most of the countries in the world with respect to rainfall forecasting. During the past few years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been continuously improving weather prediction services in terms of accuracy, lead time and associated impact. Manifestation of such quantitative improvement may be seen with accurate prediction of Monsoon 2015 and Very Severe Cyclonic Storms "Phailin", "Hudhud" and the heavy rainfall events during monsoon season of 2014 and 2015.

#### **India's Ocean Policy**

1997. SHRI. D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state which are the major recognized institutions in India which help in deliberating India's Ocean Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): The major institutions working in the area of Ocean Science and Technology viz. National Institute of Oceanography, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, National Institute of Ocean Technology, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management Project Directorate, Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture and Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory help in deliberating India's ocean policy.

#### **Agro-meteorological advisory services for farmers**

1998. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the farmers in the country are not aware of Agro-Meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) being offered by Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether these services are offered free of cost;

(c) whether these advisories are cropspecific, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) number of farmers who utilized these services during last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) No Sir. The Gramin Krishi Mausam Sewa (GKMS)