

- Periodic maintenance of the AWS sites.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Quality control is rigorously carried out at ground station after receiving the hourly weather data prior to its utilization in the assimilation and forecast system in real time.

Modernisation of IMD

17. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set a target to modernize Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) before the next monsoon to give an accurate forecaster for the nation and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the present equipments of IMD are obsolete, requiring replacement; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transfer of data into clouds by IMD

18. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) is looking to transfer its massive troves of data into the clouds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the idea is to have more centralized control with its regional centres across the country and to be able to make it easier for research arms to access weather related data; and

(c) whether IMD would require data storage in the order of 5 petabytes that works out to about 500,000 GB and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The idea of inducting cloud based technology solutions is for faster accessibility of data by various centres and users and for improving the functional efficiency of various services rendered to the nation.

(c) The detail specifications of data storage on cloud based technology solutions are being worked out.

Help to farmers by IMD

19. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether weather forecasting is the chief function of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD);

(b) if so, how this department is helping the poor farmers who are fully dependent on weather for their crops;

(c) whether it is easy today to spread awareness amongst farmers by using information technology;

(d) if so, what are the key performance indicators for IMD on the issue of helping poor farmers and increasing the agriculture production; and

(e) the details regarding our stand and statistics of the above mentioned function during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Agro-meteorological Advisory Services (AAS) under the Gramin Krishi Mausam Seva (GKMS) is operated to prepare biweekly weather based AAS bulletins for wider dissemination to the farmers at district scale through multimedia channels and also through SMS so as to plan farm operations accordingly. At present, 24.5 million farmers are directly subscribing SMS based AAS bulletins and have benefitted by and large. Efforts are continuously made for expanding the outreach of the AAS to every farming household across the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There are no key performance indicators for IMD on the issue of helping poor farmers and increasing the agriculture production.