

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

(b) No, Sir. At times the non-functionality continues for longer time due to short supply/delayed supply of spares and consumables and coordination deficiencies due to unforeseen developments including theft and vandalism in remote locations across the country.

(c) and (d) India Meteorological Department (IMD) has installed 706 AWS in the country so far covering stations in plains, hilly States and remote North-East India.

Field maintenance staff is trained to address the functional issues periodically as AWSs are operated without placing any manpower at their locations.

Various measures are being taken up to avoid and rectify malfunctioning of AWSs. These are:—

- Zonal Instrument Maintenance Centres (ZIMC) and Field Maintenance Units (FMU) are established for routine inspection as well as maintenance of all unmanned field observing systems.
- Awarding of rate contract for the supply of spares and consumables for rectifying the disfunctionality of the systems.
- Periodic calibration of the field sensors and the systems.
- Periodic preventive maintenance of the AWS sites.

Quality control is rigorously carried out at ground reception station after receiving the hourly weather data prior to its utilization in the assimilation and forecast system in real time.

Countries opposing India's entry into NSG

23. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of member countries in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) which are continuously opposing India's entry into NSG;
- (b) the grounds on which those countries are opposing India's entry; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government with all the member countries to support India's entry into NSG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH): (a) and (b) India's application for the membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) enjoys widespread support of the members of the Group. India is at present not a member of the NSG and, therefore, not privy to the Group's internal discussions. While no member of the Group has explicitly opposed India's membership, certain procedural and process related issues have been raised by a few members.

(c) India's membership continues to be under consideration of the NSG. The Government continues to engage with all members of the NSG at the appropriate levels for an early decision on India's membership of the Group.

Increase in Chinese people in PoK

24. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY:

SHRI C. M. RAMESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increase in the number of Chinese people in Pakistan occupied Baluchistan and Gilgit Baltistan;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that by 2048 Chinese would become a majority in Baluchistan;

(c) how India looks at this serious situation and how it impacts its security; and

(d) whether the majority of Chinese accumulating there are because of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or for other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): (a) to (d) Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of parts of Indian territory in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. Government's principled and consistent position is that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes the regions of Gilgit and Baltistan, is an integral part of India.

Government is aware that some of the proposed projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), including in the territory that Pakistan illegally ceded to China under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963. In this regard, Government has repeatedly conveyed to the Chinese side, including at the highest level, its concerns about their activities in PoK and asked them to cease these activities.