

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1370
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th July, 2009

CLOUDBURSTS

1370. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that with the monsoon, fear of cloudbursts which causes huge damage of property and loss of lives, starts hovering over the people of Himachal Pradesh, particularly in Kullu Valley;
- (b) if so, whether Government has installed any systems in the state to forecast the cloudbursts well in time;
- (c) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the amount allocated to the State during the year 2008-09 alongwith the preparation of Government to cope up with the havoc?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER
OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) Yes Sir.
- (c) A robust satellite telemetry based observational network of 23 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) is commissioned in various districts of Himachal Pradesh - 1 in Bilaspur; 2 in Chamba; 1 in Hamirpur; 2 in Kangra; 1 in Kunnaur; 3 in Kullu; 2 in Lahaul & Spiti; 1 in Mandi; 6 in Shimla; 1 in Simaur; 2 in Solan and 1 in Una. In addition, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has undertaken the establishment Automatic Rain Gauge (ARG) network of 62-Nos. in various districts of Himachal Pradesh during the current five year plan. With these observational systems over Himachal Pradesh, the real time monitoring and forewarning services of Cloudbursts will improve.
- (d) As a part of the modenisation programme of IMD, country-wide AWS and ARG networks are under establishment covering all districts is taken up during the current 5-year plan and hence state-wise allocations of budget are not made.
