

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3919
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 2021**

METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORIES

3919. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of farmers receiving agro meteorological advisories is still small as compared to the total farmers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the actual number of farmers receiving such awareness about the agro met services, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to increase the number of farmers so as to provide benefits from meteorological advisories and enhance dissemination through various media along with the financial implication of the Government for the last three years in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)**

- (a)-(b) No Sir, the number of farmers receiving the agro meteorological advisories have been increasing with time. Currently, 43.37 million farmers in the country receive the Agromet Advisories through SMS directly. The State-wise details of the actual number of farmers receiving such awareness about the agro met services are provided in Annexure I.

IMD also monitors rainfall situation & weather aberrations and issues alerts & warnings to the farmers time to time under GKMS scheme. SMS-based alerts and warnings for extreme weather events along with suitable remedial measures are issued to take timely operations by the farmers. Such alerts and warnings are also shared with State Department of Agriculture for the effective management of calamity.

- (c) Operational Agromet Advisory Services (AAS), *i.e.* GraminKrishiMausamSewa (GKMS) scheme, rendered by IMD jointly with ICAR and State Agricultural Universities, is a step towards weather-based crop and livestock management strategies and operations for the benefit of farming community in the country. Under the scheme, medium range weather forecast at district and block level is generated and based on the forecast, Agromet Advisories are prepared and communicated by the Agromet Field Units (AMFUs) located in State Agricultural Universities, ICAR Institutes, IITs etc. and District Agromet Units (DAMUs) at KVKs under ICAR network to the farmers on every Tuesday and Friday. These forecasts and agromet advisories help farmers to take decision on day-to-day agricultural operations, which can further optimize the application of input resources at farm level during deficient rainfall situation and extreme weather events to reduce monetary loss and maximize crop yield.

Agromet Advisories are disseminated to the farmers through multichannel dissemination system like print and electronic media, Door Darshan, radio, internet etc. including SMS using mobile phones through Kisan Portal and also through private companies under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Farmers access the weather information including alerts and related agromet advisories specific to their districts through the mobile App *viz.*, 'Meghdoot' launched by Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India. These weather details are also accessible by farmers through another App 'KisanSuvudha', launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare. Also, a few AMFUs have developed mobile Apps to facilitate quick dissemination of agromet advisories to the farmers of their region. Social media is also used for quicker dissemination of forecast and advisories to the farmers.

At present farmers of 91,881 villages in 3325 Blocks have been covered through 10464 WhatsApp groups. State Agriculture Department officials of District and Block level are also included in these WhatsApp groups. Agromet advisories are also communicated through YouTube Channel by AMFUs and DAMUs across the country. Farmers feedback are also being collected and uploaded in YouTube Channel. In addition, advisories are also being circulated through a number of Facebook pages created by AMFUs and DAMUs. Initiative on collaboration with State Government has been taken up for integration of weather forecast and Agromet advisories with state government mobile apps and websites. The integration has been completed for Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Nagaland states and about 5.6 million farmers of above-mentioned states are getting benefitted from weather forecast and agromet advisories.

IMD is taking continuous efforts to popularize the services among the farming community by organising Farmers' Awareness Programmes (FAPs) in collaboration with AMFUs and DAMUs in various parts of the country. IMD along with the experts from AMFUs and DAMUs also participate in KisanMelas, Farmers' Day etc. to create awareness about the services, so that more farmers get benefitted.

Annexure I**State-wise SMS Sent Through Kisan Portal and PPP Mode under GKMS**

State	Kisan Portal	Reliance Foundation	Kisan Sanchar	Apps and others	Total
AndamanNicobarIslands	7574				7574
AndhraPradesh	4107299	826280	106		4933685
Telangana	808257	212426			1020683
ArunachalPradesh	1076				1076
Assam	65651				65651
Bihar	537957	148755	3755	799845	1490312
Chattisgarh	29476	55610			85086
Gujarat	964960	1255898			2220858
Haryana	1965154		2078	362000	2329232
HimachalPradesh	650413				650413
JammuAnd Kashmir	23408				23408
Jharkhand	846016	89772	800		936588
Karnataka	321299	150161			471460
Kerala	588235	193215			781450
MadhyaPradesh	1387846	278673	3415		1669934
Maharashtra	5260190	1333544	1816		6595550
Manipur	197				197
Meghalaya	1160				1160
Mizoram	1200				1200
Nagaland	28825				28825
NewDelhi	7849				7849
Odisha	1908903	1223550			3132453
Punjab	688146	146498			834644
Rajasthan	1556630	264040	2127		1822797
TamilNadu	1168382	1009248	109		2177739
Tripura	18166	28448			46614
UttarPradesh	10657604	216000	6418		10880022
Uttarakhand	189546	14032	3964		207542
WestBengal	838849	109704			948553
Total	34630268	7555854	24588	1161845	43372555
