Ministry of Earth Sciences

# Survey for Deep Sea Mining

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Significant developments have been made to improve the monitoring and forecasting of severe weather events through augmenting the observational network in the country that include the following since 2014:

- 39 Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network in 2023 against 15 in 2014
- 1208 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in 2023 against 675 in 2014
- 1382 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) in 2023 against 1350 in 2014
- 35 High Wind Speed Recorders in 2023 against 19 in 2014
- 56 upper air observation systems in 2023 against 43 in 2014
- 23 Manual Pilot Balloon (PB) stations upgraded to GPS based stations while there was no GPS based PB station in 2014
- 138 Runway Visual Ranges (RVR) in 2023 against 20 in the year 2014 at different airports across the country
- 107 Digital Current Weather Systems (DCWIS) on frangible masts at airports across India in 2023 against 29 in 2014
- 8 No. of Heliport Weather Observing Systems (HAWOS) have been installed at various heliports across the country in 2023 while there was no HAWOS in 2014
- 5896 District-wise Rainfall Monitoring Scheme (DRMS) stations in 2023 against 3955 in 2014

Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) have been extended to the block level from district level since 2018. At present, AAS is provided to all the agriculturally important 700 districts and around 3100 blocks in the country.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences has launched the Deep Ocean Mission in 2021 to explore deep sea resources to support the blue economy and for sustainable harnessing of ocean resources. So far, an extensive survey and exploration work has been carried out in the Central Indian Ocean Basin for polymetallic nodules (Nickel, Cobalt, Copper and Manganese, etc.) and in Central and South West Indian ridges for hydrothermal sulphide (Copper, Zinc etc.). This exploration has identified few promising locations of hydrothermal activity and sulphide mineralization zones in the area.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kiren Rijiju in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

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