

Tsunami warning system by September: Sibal

Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI: Preparations for establishing a world-class national early tsunami warning system are apace and it will be ready for operation, as per plan, in September 2007, Union Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal said on Tuesday.

Presenting a progress report on the occasion of the

second anniversary of the December 26, 2004 tsunami, he told a press conference here that work on strengthening the seismic network, deployment of bottom pressure recorders to monitor the propagation of sea waves and subsequent sea level changes and establishment of a network of tide gauges was proceeding on an even keel.

So far, one bottom pressure

recorder was deployed and by July-end, the remaining 11 would be in place.

Likewise, 17 tide gauges out of the 50 planned had been installed along the coastline, including on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and work was on to strengthen a network of 17 seismic stations.

Scientists were generating 50,000 different scenarios of

possible travel times, inundation and run-up to a tsunami in coastal regions, taking into account possible variations in the magnitude, location and depth of earthquakes.

High-resolution topography of the coastal belt and bathymetry of shallow water had been initiated.

The National Remote Sensing Agency was preparing topographic maps for a

15,000-sqkm area (7,500 line km and two km inland from the coastline) and acquired data for 3,300 sqkm.

An end-to-end communication plan was worked out in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation to ensure communication of real-time data from seismic stations, tide gauges and bottom pressure recorders to the warning centre.