

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3395  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2006  
THIRD PERMANENT BASE IN ANTARCTICA  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the present status of setting up Third Permanent Base in Antarctica;
- (b) whether certain global groups have urged India to share Australia's existing Mawson station;
- (c) if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (d) the decisions taken by the Government in the matter ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

- (a) A Comprehensive Environment Evaluation (CEE) report for the Third Research Station at Larsemann Hills Area (latitude 69° South and longitude 76° East), is being prepared based on surveys conducted in last three years at the selected site. This is being done as per the guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Protocol on Environmental Protection or the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. The report will then be submitted to the Committee on Environmental Protocol (CEP), constituted under the Protocol. The Committee after evaluating the CEE, will put it to an Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) for approval. The setting up of new research station can be taken up only after the approval of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. However regular scientific experiments are continued at the site of the new station during Antarctic summer by sending annual expeditions.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) & (d) Does not arise