

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:892
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
REMOTE SENSING SATELLITE PROGRAMME
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cost-benefit study of the remote-sensing satellite programme has been completed ;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) if not, time by which the study is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various studies have been carried out to assess the costs and benefits of remote sensing satellite programme. The use of the information derived from remote sensing in support of various developmental activities and derived societal benefit in watershed management, landuse planning, water resources utilisation, irrigation management, coastal management, command area development, urban development, disaster management support etc., has been amply proven in various projects / programmes undertaken in the country. Specific surveys done to qualify the societal benefits accruing from the use of remote sensing data has shown improvements in the natural resources conservation at the watershed level in various areas, specifically increase in ground water availability, double-cropping practices, optimisation of landuse etc. It has also been estimated that the cost of the remote sensing data usage is about 3-5% in any overall developmental project cost. Further, the information generation capability of remote sensing, mainly through the various national mapping missions carried out, has been measured by comparing costs with conventional capabilities. The savings in cost attributable to the use of remote sensing data is estimated to be more than about Rs.500 Crores. In a separate study undertaken by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), it is estimated that the potential benefit that could accrue to society by the proper use of remote sensing satellites in estimating crop acreage, irrigation management, watershed development, landuse change analysis, forestry management and large scale mapping would not only cover the cost of the remote sensing programme but more than pay for the entire national space effort.

(c) Does not arise.