

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SPACE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2060  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000  
SATELLITE DATA  
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

**Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether satellite data should be made available on free of charge to countries prone to natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region ;
- (b) if so, whether the participants declared the same;
- (c) the other decisions arrived at in the conference; and
- (d) to what extent India will be provided with such data?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS  
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):

- (a)&(b) There have been proposals in several international fora that satellite data should be made available free of charge by satellite operators to countries subjected to disasters. However, no consensus has yet been reached at the international level, including at the Second United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, held at New Delhi in November 1999.
- (c) The above Conference made the Delhi Declaration launching the second phase of the Regional Space Applications Programme of ESCAP for action oriented, result driven programme for optimising human and financial resources in the region through cooperation in the areas of environmental and natural resource management, food-security, capacity building, human resource development and education, poverty alleviation, weather forecasting, natural disaster management, health care and hygiene and sustainable development towards improving the quality of life.
- (d) India receives weather related data from the Indian INSAT satellites and remote sensing data from the Indian IRS satellites. India also receives data from the NOAA satellites of USA, ERS and METEOSAT of Europe and Radarsat of Canada. If required, data can be requested from other operators also.