

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2124
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
INDO-FRANCE SPACE MISSION
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and France have discussed the joint programme for Space Mission ;
- (b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which both the countries are likely to be benefited?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. India and France have discussed a joint programme for a satellite mission called Megha Tropiques for research on atmospheric phenomena in the tropical region related to climate.
- (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the French Space Agency (CNES) have signed a Statement of Intent to study the feasibility of jointly carrying out the Megha Tropiques mission.
- (c) The study envisages flying a scientific instrument to be developed jointly by India and France and two instruments from France on a French satellite platform, and launching the satellite using India's PSLV. Data analysis is to be carried out by both sides as well as selected scientists from the international community.
- (d) Both countries are expected to gain more expertise in using the scientific data for understanding the tropical atmosphere. ISRO and CNES will build experience in working together in complex technical programmes which can open up bigger opportunities in the future.