

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:542  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2007  
ARCTIC EXPEDITION  
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning for the Arctic expedition to research on the climate change with the teams of other countries ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total funds allocated for this purpose;
- (d) the key areas on which the expedition will concentrate; and
- (e) the time by which the first Arctic expedition is likely to be sent ?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b)&(c) Yes Sir. Ministry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, an autonomous institute under this Ministry has proposed a research programme for the Arctic region during the XI Five Year Plan starting in 2007, coinciding with International Polar Year (IPY). This is being worked out in collaboration with Norwegian Polar Research Institute, for Indian Scientists to carry out research in Svalbard region, where an international research facility exists in Ny-Alesund. Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed a new research scheme 'Expedition to Arctic' during the XI Five Year Plan, for which a token amount of Rs.1.00 crore has been provided for the next financial year.

(d) The scientific research is proposed in the field of Atmospheric Sciences, Space Weather, Glaciology including Sea Ice and Marine Sciences.

(e) It is proposed to send the first team of Indian Scientists to Arctic region this year.