

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:808  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006  
VISIT OF RESEARCH GROUP TO SOUTH POLE  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

**Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a Research Group of Indian Scientists have surveyed the environmental standards, Bio-productivity, sea-bed situations, sea mammals and flora and fauna during their visit to South Pole recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the success achieved in this research work?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) So-far, no Indian expedition has been sent to South Pole. However we have been sending expedition teams to Antarctica. Also, an expedition has been sent in January, 2006 to Southern Oceans in Antarctica to carry out oceanographic survey in Southern Oceans and bathymetric surveys near the site of the proposed new research base.

(b) & (c) Study of Southern Oceans through oceanographic survey is a long term programme of the Department, in which studies are conducted in the fields of Physical oceanography, Atmospheric sciences, Biological sciences and Geological and Geophysical sciences. So far only two research expeditions have gone to Southern Oceans, which have an influence on the weather over Indian Ocean and also are rich in resources, such as fishery.