

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ATOMIC ENERGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5373  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
SETTING UP TACTIC AND MYSTIQUE TELESCOPES  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

**Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether despite an expenditure of Rs.16.18 crore on setting up of TACTIC and MYSTIQUE telescopes by the Department of Atomic Energy, they have not been able to establish them so far;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons for shifting it from Mount Abu to Hanle, in Ladakh?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(INDEPENDENT CHARGE),PMO, PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir, The TACTIC telescope has been set up and upgraded at Mt. Abu. Useful data collected from galactic and extragalactic objects by the TACTIC telescopes has been published in high impact journals. The prototype MYSTIQUE comprising of an array of 30 detectors was installed during 1995-96 and operated with various configurations till 1999. Useful data on the polarization characteristics of the atmospheric Cherenkov events were collected during this period. Upgradation of MYSTIQUE was not taken up due to global developments in gamma-ray astronomy.

(c) It was envisaged to set up four telescopes (TACTIC, MYSTIQUE, BEST and MACE) at one single location. However, on a review of the programme by a National Committee of experts, it was recommended to set up the large diameter MACE (Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment) telescope at Hanle in the Ladakh region of J&K. The high altitude (4200m asl) and year round clear sky conditions at Hanle are the important considerations for change in the location.