

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2778
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
SATELLITE FOR ENVIRONMENT
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to launch a satellite to study the environmental changes and sea water level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to seek assistance from other foreign space agencies for launching the said satellite;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the present status of the project; and
- (f) the time by which the satellite is likely to be launched?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India plans to launch SARAL (Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA) satellite to monitor the sea water level. SARAL satellite will carry an Altimeter (ALTIKA) for studying the sea surface heights; and ARGOS payload, which is a satellite based data collection platform.

(c) & (d) SARAL satellite is a joint project of Indian Space Research Organisation and the French National Space Agency. The ALTIKA and ARGOS payloads are built and supplied by the French National Space Agency. The satellite building and launching are the responsibilities of Indian Space Research Organisation.

(e) The satellite bus is under fabrication at Indian Space Research Organisation. Integration and testing of the payloads are ongoing at the French National Space Agency.

(f) The satellite is likely to be launched in 2011.