

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4760
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
TEST FLIGHT OF SOLAR POWER PLANE
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a solar powered plane was experimented and its test flight took off from Switzerland;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken for promotion and application of such technology in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Various News Agencies and website of Project Solar Impulse (www.solarimpulse.com) have reported that a Prototype Solar Plane HB-SIA developed by Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne and sponsored by a conglomerate of industries flew 26 hours 9 minutes on 7-8 July, 2010 to complete the first night flight propelled only by Solar Energy stored during the day.

(c): The vision of the Solar Plane experiment is to promote renewable energy technologies by demonstrating efficiency of solar energy technology systems and their capability of offering innovative aeronautical solution for addressing unachieved challenge of solar powered night flight. The Government is conscious of need to promote renewable energy applications and research in the area of harnessing solar energy is being pursued vigorously.