

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3632
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
NATIONAL SOUTH POLE EXPEDITION
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to launch India's first National South Pole Expedition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the team for such expedition has been finalized;
- (d) if so, the details of the scientific experiments proposes to be undertaken by the said team during their expedition; and
- (e) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred in the said expedition?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. To mark thirty years of Indian presence in Antarctica a scientific expedition to South Pole was launched from the Indian Station 'Maitri' at Antarctica on 13th November, 2010. An eight member team comprising geologists, glaciologist, geophysicist apart from a doctor and vehicle engineers after travelling a journey of 2350 kms in 10 days have made it to South Pole on 22nd November, 2010.

(d) Observations about the glacial/geomorphological land forms along the traverse, meteorology, subsurface structure, snow chemistry, aerosols, etc. were made besides collection of ice cores regularly along the traverse. The analysis of the observations and core samples is to be carried out. The expedition is on its way back to Indian Station 'Maitri'.

(e) An outlay of Rs. 90 crore has been made for the expedition during the year 2010-11.