

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3791

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

ACQUISITION OF RESEARCH VESSEL FOR GSI

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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to acquire a new Research Vessel for Geological Survey of India [GSI] for execution of seabed survey and exploration of non-living resources;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;
- (c) the criteria adopted by the Government for selection of the Research Vessel;
- (d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred therein; and
- (e) the time by which a new Research Vessel is likely to be received by GSI?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): GSI is procuring the new Research Vessel as a replacement of the existing Research Vessel 'Samudra Manthan' possessed by GSI at present for undertaking seabed surveys and exploration of non-living resources. This vessel has an endurance of 45 days and Geological Survey of India has prepared a long-term programme for the vessel in the EEZ and beyond. The vessel is capable of surveying to the full ocean depth (6000 m). The details of the Research Vessel are given at Annexure.

(c) : GSI has hired two consultants viz , the Shipping Corporation of India[SCI], being a Government of India undertaking appointed as first consultant on nomination basis and M/s Wartsila Ship Design, Norway [WSDN] appointed as the second (foreign) consultant through global tendering process. Concept Design and technical specifications have been prepared by the M/s WSDN and SCI as per the requirements of GSI. Further, the selection of the shipyard i.e. M/s Hyundai Heavy Industries [HHI], Korea has also been done through global tendering process. The dimensions and concept design have been finalised after a number of interactions and discussions with the consultants, experts from various allied organisations. The specifications of the scientific equipments have been finalised on the basis of global market survey, discussions with experts in the field. The SCI scrutinised and verified all parameters of the vessel.

(d): The cost of the vessel is Rs 549.5 crore [including payments to both Consultants] (cost of the Research Vessel : Rs 531.00 crore (equivalent to USD 117.73 million); payment to consultants: Rs 18.5 crore (NOK 12,400,000 to M/s WSDN and Rs 8.0 crore to SCI) subject to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates.

(e): The vessel is expected to be delivered by September 2013.