

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2746  
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012  
RESEARCH STATION IN ANTARCTICA  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India proposes to commission its third permanent research station ``Bharti'' in Antarctica;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether research station 'Maitri' which was commissioned earlier under the Madrid Protocol, 2002 has proved its utility; and
- (d) if so, the details of the funds being spent on the Antarctica station for research regarding climatic change and international research projects on natural calamities ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a & b) Yes Madam, the construction of the third Indian research station in Larsemann Hills, East Antarctica was initiated in 2009-10. The basic infrastructure and shifting of heavy construction machinery at the site was accomplished. In the year 2010-11, the stilt foundation was made ready, roads built, fuel storage farm and pipe lines were erected. During the current year 2011-12, the superstructure has been built. The station has been running on a trial basis. The first winter over team has started living there and has commenced their work of testing of equipments and systems.

(c) 'Maitri', India's second Research Station was built in 1988-89 and has been hosting summer team of about 70 members and winter team of 25 members every year since then. 'Maitri' has been serving as the gateway for Indian scientists to venture into interior Antarctic mountains. The meteorological, geomagnetic, geological, glaciological and seismological observations have continuously been collected and contribute data to Indian and international data centres and prove the utility of this station.

(d) During the year 2011-12, a sum of Rs. 95 Crore was earmarked for Indian Antarctic Expeditions. This expedition involved the voyage of the scientists to Antarctica to do the research, maintenance of the Antarctic station and providing the scientists necessary infrastructure and logistic support to perform their experiments. Most of the scientific programs such as monitoring of Antarctic climate, synoptic measurement of weather parameters, monitoring of ozone hole, recording of fluctuation of ice sheet margin, aerosol monitoring, fluctuation of snout of glacier, Ionospheric measurements etc., have direct bearing on the understanding of processes of Climate Change.