

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3265

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012

LAUNCH OF MARS MISSION

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch Spacecraft to Mars; and
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far in this regard alongwith its aims and objectives?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a)&(b) Indian Space Research Organisation has proposed to undertake a "Mars Orbiter Mission" during October- November 2013. This mission will be India's first step towards exploring the planet Mars. The proposal is to realize a Mars Orbiter spacecraft and launch it using India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL). The proposal is currently under consideration of the Government for approval.

The Mars orbiter spacecraft will be placed in an elliptical orbit around Mars after a voyage of nearly 300 days from the earth's orbit. During the orbital life of the spacecraft around Mars, the instruments on-board the spacecraft will be used to perform the scientific experiments.

The aims and objectives of the proposed Mars mission are to demonstrate our technological capability to reach Martian orbit and to conduct scientific experiments to enhance the understanding of Martian atmosphere. It would also pave the way for future scientific exploratory missions in addition to generating national pride and excitement in the young minds.