

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4319

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

ALL WEATHER IMAGING SATELLITE

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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is set to launch an indigenous satellite with 'Unique' capability to capture images in all weather conditions which will remove dependency on foreign satellites for this purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the sectors that will be benefited with the launching of the said satellite;
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be launched;
- (e) the foreign exchange to be saved as a result of its launch; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to remove the dependency on foreign satellites?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) The country's first indigenously designed microwave imaging satellite, Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1) was launched, by Indian Space Research Organisation, onboard India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-19) on April 26, 2012 from Sriharikota. The satellite with C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar facilitates cloud penetration and imaging even without sunlight. For RISAT-1, imaging sessions around both 6 AM and 6 PM are chosen.
- (c) The sectors that will be benefited with the launch of RISAT-1 are primarily agriculture, disaster management support and forestry.
- (d) The RISAT-1 satellite has been successfully launched on April 26, 2012 at 05:47 hrs using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV C-19.
- (e) India has been depending on foreign satellite images to meet the application requirements with respect to microwave imaging. The foreign exchange incurred for acquisition of such images is about US \$ 1 million on annual basis. Acquisition of such data involves time, availability of such satellite images and the expenditure for procurement. With the availability of RISAT-1 such dependencies on foreign agencies is reduced. Imaging under cloud cover conditions, particularly in the monsoon, will be done using our own microwave satellite.
- (f) The Central Government has taken necessary measures to build and launch additional earth observation, communication and navigation satellites in order to reduce dependency on the foreign satellites. A constellation of communication and earth observation satellites are already providing necessary services to the nation.