

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2913

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012

SATELLITE TO MARS

Mitra Shri Somendra Nath;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved sending an unmanned satellite to Mars to explore the planet next year as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the aims and the objectives of this mission; and
- (d) the details of benefits the country will have from this mission?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government has approved in August 2012 the proposal to undertake the first unmanned mission to planet Mars to be launched during October- November 2013 using India's Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV-XL) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The spacecraft will be placed in an elliptical orbit of 500 km X 80,000 km around Mars by September 2014 after a voyage of nearly 300 days from the Earth's orbit.

(c) The primary aim and objective of the Mars Orbiter mission is to demonstrate India's technological capability to reach Martian orbit. Further during the orbital life of the orbiter around Mars, scientific studies would be undertaken.

(d) The proposed Indian initiative to Mars will pave the way for future scientific missions, and bring a strategic advantage to India. The Mars Orbiter mission would also generate national pride and excitement in the young minds.