

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2943
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
Patel Shri Bal Kumar

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is/was the sole civilian provider of aerial remote sensing services in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the NRSC had two beach aircrafts in operation to attend to various aerial projects;
- (c) if so, whether these aerial projects were meant for remote sensing in specific areas at required times which was not possible from remote sensing satellites;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the beach aircrafts are performing the task of aerial remote sensing to their maximum capacity;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Madam. National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is not the sole civilian provider of aerial remote sensing services in the country. From time to time, other organisations, including private and foreign agencies, have carried out aerial surveys with the permission of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Ministry of Defence. However, NRSC, since its inception in 1977, has been involved in carrying out the bulk of aerial remote sensing surveys in the country.
- (b) Yes, Madam.
- (c) Yes, Madam.
- (d) Aerial projects are generally meant for generating magnetic contour maps, large scale aerial photography with ground sampling distance from 30 cm to 10 cm, high resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM), close contour maps of 1 meter or better. Acquisition of such datasets is not possible with the current class of remote sensing satellites.
- (e) Yes, Madam.
- (f) The two NRSC aircrafts are utilised to their maximum capacity, which is about 500 hours per annum for both the aircrafts put together. However, at times, utilisation of the aircrafts could be lower, due to non-availability of clear cloud free conditions over the target area and unseasonal weather patterns.
- (g) Does not arise.