GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4350
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ISRO
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellites of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have contributed in improving the facilities in the field of telecommunication, distance education, tele-medicine, etc. in rural and far flung areas of the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the improvements have been achieved;

(c) whether any utility study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the country is likely to get maximum facilities through the network of satellites by their optimum use?

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) The extent to which the improvements have been achieved include:

(i) Television: Direct To Home (DTH) Satellite Television coverage of 100% area of Indian mainland including rural and far flung areas;

(ii) Telecommunication: About 1.50 Lakh satellite communication terminals are supporting various applications like village telephony, data connectivity, broadband connectivity, Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) of banks, etc., covering the rural and far-flung areas of the country;

(iii) Tele-Education: 56,164 classrooms connected through satellite networking, of which 51,221 are Receive Only Terminals (ROTs) and 4943 are Satellite Interactive Terminals (SITs) catering to all the sectors of education from primary to higher and professional education;

(iv) Telemedicine: The Telemedicine network connects the patients at a remote hospital to a speciality hospital for tele-consultation. 60 specialty hospitals connected to 308 remote and rural hospitals and 16 Mobile Vans.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The studies have been conducted by Developmental Education and Communication Unit (DECU) of ISRO on the utility of tele-education and tele-medicine networks over the years. The findings of the study indicate the following:

(i) Tele-education networks are very effective to reach out remote and rural areas of the country and also to enhance the understanding level of the students. The target audience for tele-education include students from school, technical education, higher education, teachers training including physically challenged students. On an average 2-3 hours of programmes are transmitted for 4-5 days in a week.

(ii) Tele-medicine networks are very useful in treating the patients located in remote and rural areas. On an average 1000 patients are treated everyday through 324 tele-medicine centres per day. Mobile tele-medicine vans are found to be ideal to cover larger geographical area with treatment in the fields of Ophthalmology, Diabetic screening and General Medicine.

(e) The country is already getting maximum facilities through optimal use of the existing network of satellites.