

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:140

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013

COMMUNICATION SATELLITES

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to launch GSAT-15 and GSAT-16;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of these satellites and the aims and objectives of the projects;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and funds allocated for these projects;
- (d) the number of existing INSAT/GSAT satellites operating and providing different frequency bands to transponders in the country; and
- (e) the details of annual revenue earnings of the Department from such satellites?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (c),(d) & (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TABLED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.140 TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14, 2013 ON 'COMMUNICATION SATELLITES'

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) GSAT-15 is a geostationary communication satellite, which will carry 24 Ku-band transponders and one GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) payload. The aims and objectives of GSAT-15 satellite includes (i) providing replacement for Ku band capacity of INSAT-3A and INSAT-4B,(ii) augmenting and building in-orbit backup for Ku band capacity of INSAT/GSAT system and (iii) providing in-orbit redundancy for GAGAN payload for safety of life operations. GSAT-15 satellite will support the existing Direct-To-Home (DTH) and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) services in the country and the GAGAN payload will be a part of GAGAN space segment to provide better air traffic management over Indian Air Space.

GSAT-16 is a geostationary communication satellite which will carry 24 C-band, 12 Ku-band and 12 Upper Extended C-band transponders. The aims and objectives of GSAT-16 satellite includes (i) providing replacement for the INSAT-3E satellite, (ii) augmenting and building in-orbit backup for C, Upper Extended-C band and Ku band transponders of INSAT/GSAT system. GSAT-16 satellite will support satellite based telecommunication, television, VSAT and other services in the country. GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 satellites are targeted for launch during 2014-16 timeframe.

(c) GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 satellites have been approved in July 2013. The approved cost including the cost of procured launch and insurance are as below

GSAT-15 : RS 859.50 Crores

GSAT-16 : RS 865.50 Crores

The funds allocated for GSAT-15 & GSAT-16 satellites during the current year 2013-14 is RS 800 Cr.

(d) At present, there are 9 operational INSAT/GSAT communication satellites namely INSAT-3A, INSAT-3C, INSAT-3E, INSAT-4A, INSAT-4B, INSAT-4CR, GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-12. The total number of transponders available at present from these satellites is 195, operating in C, Extended C, Ku, and S-bands.

(e) Transponders on communication satellites are leased to users after the launch and operationalization of the satellite. Department

of Space leases the transponders on INSAT/GSAT satellites through ANTRIX Corporation Limited, commercial arm of the department. The revenue earned by ANTRIX through leasing of INSAT/GSAT transponders during the year 2012 -13 is Rs.482.67 Crores approximately. This revenue accrues from service providers of Direct -To-Home(DTH) services, TV Uplink services, Digital Satellite News Gathering(DSNG) services and Very Small Aperture Terminal(VSAT) services. This revenue does not include the capacities provided to various societal applications such as tele-education, tele-medicine, Village Resource Center, Disaster Management and part of public broadcasting services.