

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3264
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION PROGRAMME
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the team of scientists for Antarctica expedition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) the norms for selection of scientists for this expedition;
- (d) the aims and objectives of this team; and
- (e) the financial allocation made for this expedition?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a)&(b) Yes Madam. The team for 29th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica comprising 31 summer members and 23 winter members representing 14 national scientific institutions has been finalized and has already departed for Antarctica in the month of November 2009.
- (c) The team was selected on the basis of proposals received from various institutions to carry out research in the contemporary thrust areas of polar sciences.
- (d) The aims and objective of the team are to carry out the research and investigation in the following major disciplines;
- i. Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences;
 - ii. Biology and Environment;
 - iii. Earth Sciences, Oceanography and Glaciology;
 - iv. Climate Change.
- (e) The financial allocation for the 29th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica is Rs. 52.00 crores for the year 2009-10.