

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EARTH SCIENCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1389

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

RESEARCH IN ARCTIC ANTARCTICA.

Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;George Shri (Adv.) Joice;Patil Shri Kapil Moreshwar

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government is conducting research & development in Arctic and Antarctic region;
- (b) If so, the details and the findings thereof so far along with the expenditure incurred during the last three years and the current year in this regard;
- (c) Whether the Government proposes to increase research stations/centres in Arctic and Antarctic and if so, the details thereof along with the number of scientists/ technicians likely to be deputed to the above centre;
- (d) Whether the Government has made agreement with foreign countries for research & development in the region and if so, the details thereof along with the works proposes to be conducted in this regard;
- (e) Whether the Government has Ice- breakers for exploration and research in the above places; and
- (f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof along with the steps taken / being taken by the Government for construction of indigenous ice-breakers?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The details and the findings so far has been furnished at Annexure-I. The expenditure incurred during 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and current year i.e 2014-15 (as on 31-1-2015) are Rs.249.79 crores, Rs. 190 crores, Rs.196 crores and Rs. 169 crores respectively. The enhanced expenditure during 2011-12 was due to the construction of the new Research Station at "Bharti" in Antarctica.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Earth Sciences through its autonomous institute, National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) has entered into a MoU with the Norwegian Polar Institute for scientific and logistic co-operation in the Arctic. India has a station "Himadri" at Ny-Å...lesund, Svalbard, Norway.
- (e & f) No, Madam. However, India has the capability to build ice class vessel. Indian ship building industry has yet to build a Research Vessel cum ice breaker.